

## Corneal sequestrum

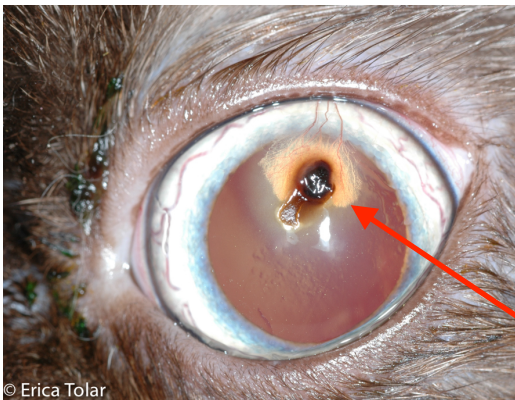
Corneal sequestra are a unique corneal disease in domestic cats. A corneal sequestrum is a black area of necrotic tissue usually located in the center of the cornea. Corneal sequestra vary in size from very small to quite large. These lesions can extend deep in the the cornea which can result in perforation or rupture of the cornea.

It is unknown why these lesions occur and some theories include corneal trauma, dry eye, feline herpes virus or abnormal eyelid conformation. There is a breed predisposition for brachycephalic or short nose cats with Persian and Himalayan breeds being more frequently affected.

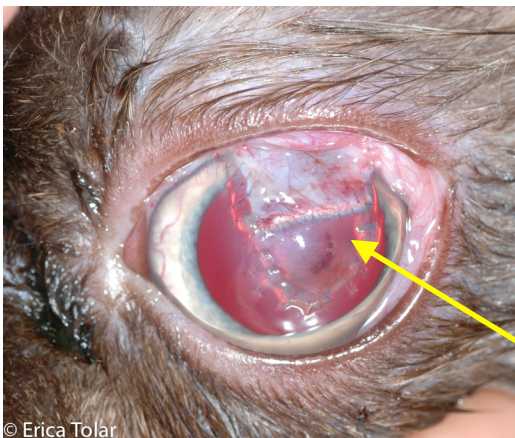
Clinical signs associated with a corneal sequestrum include squinting, tearing and elevation of the third eyelid. Additionally you may notice blood vessels coming from the white part of the eye extending toward the black area of the cornea.

Corneal sequestra are painful and can potentially cause catastrophic damage, surgical excision of the sequestrum is the best option to quickly restore comfort and save the eye. There are a couple of surgical options that are available including a keratectomy, conjunctival graft or a corneal conjunctival transposition. All of these options are performed under an operating microscope while the cat is under general anesthesia.

The prognosis with surgery is very good especially if the sequestrum is removed early. It is rare to have a sequestrum reform after surgery but it is possible and one potential complication. Often times cats are maintained on a topical lubricant life long after surgery depending what the cause of the sequestrum is.



The black area indicated by the red arrow is a corneal sequestrum



The yellow arrow is identifying the corneal conjunctival graft that was advanced into the area that was excised



Post operative appearance of the corneal conjunctival transposition seen in the cat to the left