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Ophthalmology Snapshot

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Ophthalmology Snapshot

Nalinee Tuntivanich

History

An eight-month old, female DSH cat was referred from a private animal hospital to the Ophthalmology clinic, Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University. The kitten was rescued 5 months ago. The owner noticed that there was an opacity developing within the kitten's right eye since

then. Even though the kitten was still alert, the owner concerned about progression of this abnormality.

Routine ophthalmic examinations of the right eye revealed negative menace response. Dazzle reflex was positive. Pupillary light response was detectable while resting pupil size was somewhat small. After the pupil was pharmacologically dilated, opacity seemed even more apparent. Intraocular pressure was within low-normal limit.



Figure 1 Photograph of the right eye of the kitten.
(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

Question

Give ophthalmic diagnosis?

Please turn to next page for the answer.

Answer

Feline cataract

Comments

Cataract is a condition when lens becomes opaque. The more light is impeded, the more vision is impaired. If the disease is progressing to an advance stage, the cat will experience serious vision deficit. Compared to dogs, cataract is less common in cats. Most of feline cataract in DSH cats is secondary to intraocular conditions, such as chronic uveitis, juvenile nutrient deficiency, diabetes mellitus, dehydration, previous injury or infection of *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*. Following pupil dilation, thorough ophthalmic examination of lens should be performed. Absence of menace response indicates mature cataract.

Treatment of clinical signs will be considered as necessary. Anti inflammatory agents are prescribed if uveitis is present. Administration of mydriatics is recommended to treat cyclopegic and prevent synechia

formation. If cataract is small and non progressive, monitoring of disease progression every 3-6 months could be scheduled. If lens is densely opaque and vision is significantly affected, surgery management would possibly be an alternative.

Reference

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