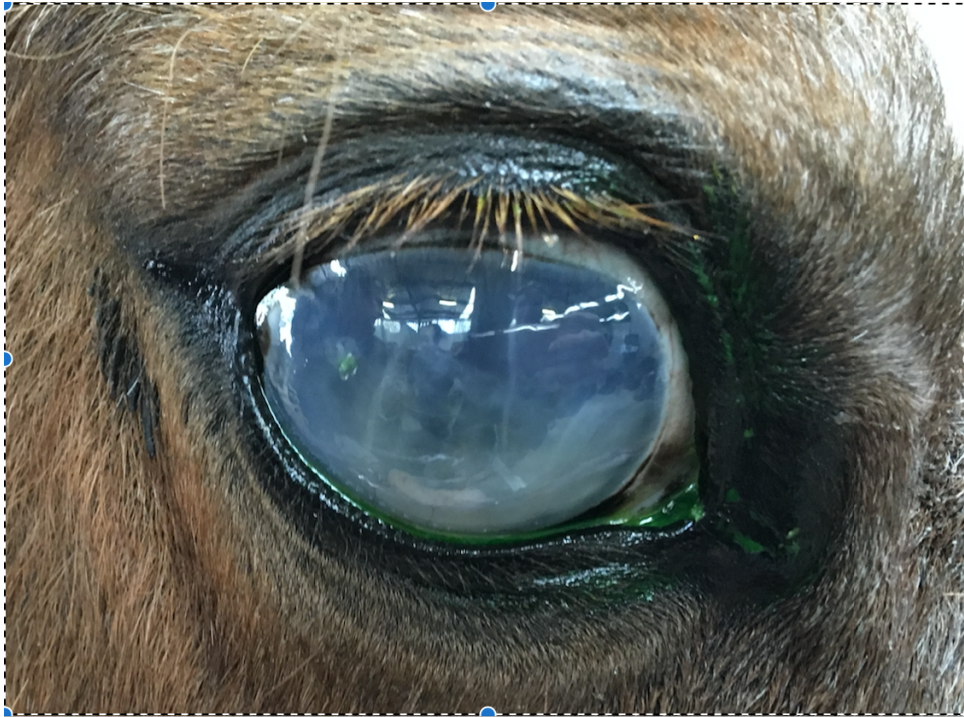


# Equine Glaucoma

Why is it difficult to diagnose?



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## Specialist Consultation

Routine consults are  
performed at South East  
Equine on a Wednesday

## Overview

Glaucoma is a group of diseases resulting in elevated intraocular pressure, loss of retinal ganglion cells and eventual vision loss. Glaucoma may be congenital, primary or secondary. The latter being the most common cause in horses. The equine eye is resistant to the effects of glaucoma. As a result the disease process may advance without the owners being aware of the problem.

## DIFFICULT DIAGNOSIS

- Eye pressure can wax and wane
- Clinical signs are subtle early in the disease
- Extraocular muscle contraction increases IOP making tonometry difficult and inconsistent
- Auriculopalpebral nerve blocks should be performed when performing tonometry
- Head being lower than the heart can increase IOP
- Sedation can artificially lower the IOP

## CAUSE OF GLAUCOMA IN HORSES

- Uveitis (most common cause)
- Appaloosas are predisposed
- Horses older than 15 years are predisposed
- Congenital glaucoma is rare
- Primary glaucoma is rare
- Trauma may lead to uveitis and secondary glaucoma
- Neoplasms may cause secondary glaucoma