

## EOSINOPHILIC KERATITIS

Eosinophilic keratitis and eosinophilic conjunctivitis are unique syndromes found in cats. A particular type of white blood cell, the eosinophil, normally responds when the body is affected by allergy or parasites. In patients with eosinophilic keratitis, these white blood cells invade the cornea and give the eye a pinkish-white chalky appearance. In the same fashion, eosinophilic conjunctivitis affects the conjunctival tissues covering the sclera and the undersides of the eyelids. The exact cause of these syndromes is unknown but there may be an association with Feline Herpesvirus. We may suggest testing for this respiratory virus of cats, especially if your pet is frequently sneezing at home. Treatment of eosinophilic keratitis or eosinophilic conjunctivitis is usually successful with topical steroid (cortisone) medications. Corneal ulcers may be present in eyes with eosinophilic keratitis or conjunctivitis so a topical antibiotic will be used for treatment until the ulcer heals. It may take several weeks for resolution of the problem and the disease can recur in the same or opposite eye.