

OPTIC NEURITIS

Optic Neuritis refers to inflammation or irritation of the optic nerve. The optic nerve extends from the back of the eye to the brain, and its function is to transmit visual images to the brain. If the optic nerve is inflamed, the patient's brain cannot receive visual images and blindness results.

Inflammation of the optic nerve may be caused by a tumor, infection, or an immune-mediated problem, where the body's immune system attacks the nerve. In many cases the cause remains unknown. Treatment of optic neuritis usually includes the use of anti-inflammatory drugs like systemic prednisone. Early diagnosis increases the effectiveness of the treatment and helps minimize permanent damage to the nerve.

Vision can return after treatment is started. Please be sure to continue the medication as directed and return for rechecks as scheduled, even if your pet seems normal. Optic neuritis can recur, so even after your pet gets better, watch for any signs that he/she is having problems and contact us right away. Some cases do require long-term maintenance therapy.