

Dr. Andrew Greller Sees What Your Pet's Eyes Need

A Positive Vision For Your Four-Footed Family Member

"I feel very humbled, healing a beloved pet's eyes — and, in turn, opening up the whole family's eyes to healthy vision-care habits, especially during May, NATIONAL PET MONTH." —Dr. Andrew Greller

May is National Pet Month, with the goal of promoting responsible pet ownership. Accordingly, Dr. Andrew Greller, a veterinary ophthalmologist based here in San Antonio, Texas, offers the following "6 Tips for Spot's Healthy Eye Care" to local pet owners.

"As a veterinary eye specialist, I have seen *every crazy thing* happen to a dog's and cat's eyes," he says, adding that eye problems are the third most likely cause for a pet's visit to the veterinarian, besides a wellness visit. (No. 1 is digestive issues, while skin issues take second place.) Greller treated about 2,000 patients locally for sight-related ailments in 2012. "The most common conditions I see are dry eye, corneal ulcers, cataracts, and glaucoma," he notes.

Some of these things are preventable, and this is how his guidelines below will help pet owners and their four-footed family members — during National Pet Month, and throughout the whole year as well.

6 Tips for Spot's Healthy Eye Care

1. Clean away any mucus or discharge from your dog's eyes. Using a warm, wet washcloth or clean damp cotton ball, wipe outward away from eye, especially the inside corner of the eyes. Ideally, you should clean Spot's eyes daily to avoid buildup. Purified water, sold as "Eye Wash," works perfectly.

2. Keep the fur around Spot's eyes trimmed. If the fur around your dog's eyes gets too long, then it can rub against the surface of his eyes, which could lead to irritation or abrasion. Thick fur and skin folds around the eyes can also allow discharge to build up and harden, making it more difficult to clean away. In addition, the discharge may scratch the eye.

3. Avoid grooming products that might irritate your dog's eyes. Consider looking for natural, organic dog shampoos — or use baby shampoo — to make sure that you are using the healthiest and safest ingredients possible.

When There *Is* a Problem

The first step is to call your primary veterinarian. Based on your observations, your vet can let you know if you should bring your pet in for an office visit. The vet will recommend you to a veterinary eye specialist if the problem requires specialized care. The sooner the treatment is initiated, typically the better the prognosis.

4. Use the monthly recommended flea and tick prevention by your veterinarian.

Besides the infections that ticks can cause, fleas make Spot itchy, inciting him to rub his face. This rubbing means possible damage to the eyes.

5. Opt for dog goggles, or “doggles,” to protect Spot’s eyes. This eyewear can shield his eyes from further irritation or trauma, as well as ultraviolet (UV) light.

6. Don’t let your dog stick his head out the car window while you’re driving!

Although this is one of Spot’s favorite things to do, it can be quite dangerous. Imagine what a small pebble hitting your windshield at 60mph can do. A safer alternative is to open the window just enough to allow Spot to enjoy the wind and the scents ... or put some doggles on him!

About Dr. Andrew Greller

Dr. Andrew Greller is a veterinary ophthalmologist, a veterinarian who specializes in animals’ eye care. In his career, he has treated the vision needs of animals of all shapes and sizes — from a 3,000-pound white rhinoceros to a 300-gram mouse. He has treated and examined more than 10,000 pets, and he has performed more than 2,500 eye surgeries.

In addition to his outstanding customer service and quality care for his clients and patients, he goes the extra mile every year to give back to the San Antonio community. He volunteers in a variety of meaningful capacities, such as giving free examinations to Guide Dogs of Texas as well as military working dogs at Lackland Air Force Base. He even examined SeaWorld San Antonio’s beluga whale, pro bono, in 2011. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists and is a member of the Bexar County Veterinary Medical Association. He earned his V.M.D. from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Making connections through animals is his vision.

In early 2013, Dr. Greller won San Antonio’s very first “Pick of the Litter” Contest. The award recognized his outstanding veterinary service in our community. Making connections through animals is his vision.