

# Elizabethan Collars

## a.k.a. E-collar, Cone of Shame

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Your pet has been custom-fitted with a clear, plastic Elizabethan collar, or "E-collar." This will aid in healing by preventing your pet from pawing or rubbing the eye on furniture, carpet, or pillows, and causing further trauma to the eye. Most patients take 1-3 days to adjust, so please refrain from taking the E-collar off or trimming it! The length of the E-collar is very important, since the edge needs to be a certain distance from the eye.

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### Some tips for e-collar usage:

**My pet can't get around very well...** Pets often have trouble judging distance with the collar on, so expect your pet to bump into walls and furniture. Peripheral vision and hearing might also be reduced by the e-collar. **It is not safe to leave your pet unsupervised in the yard while in an E-collar.**

**My pet won't move...** Encourage them with treats and be patient. Do your best to keep their routine the same. **Speaking to your pet with too much sympathy can have an adverse effect.**

**My pet won't eat or drink...** If having trouble reaching the bowl, elevate their dish 2-4 inches using a phone book, heavy crock dishes, etc. Try the bottom of a large coffee mug for cats or flat-faced dogs. Sometimes adding puree baby food (chicken or beef), canned chicken breast, or low sodium chicken broth to warm food may entice them into eating.

### Have more questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Animal Vision Center at (425) 307-6020 to let us know if you have any further questions or concerns about medications or your pet's eyes.

**I have other pets in my household...** If fellow pets play with the patient and/or lick the patient's eyes, they may need to be separated from each other.

**My pet won't go to the bathroom...** Be patient for the first 12-24 hours. For cats, always keep their litter clean and if you have a hooded litter pan, remove the top. Take dogs out for frequent walks. **Notify our office if there has not been an elimination in 24 hours, or if there is any straining/difficulty voiding.**

**My pet would prefer an inflatable or soft E-collar...** While these cones are effective for general veterinary uses, **they do not protect the eye or ocular area.** Your pet will still be able to rub their face on furniture, etc. and/or paw at the eye, leading to possible further damage and longer healing times.