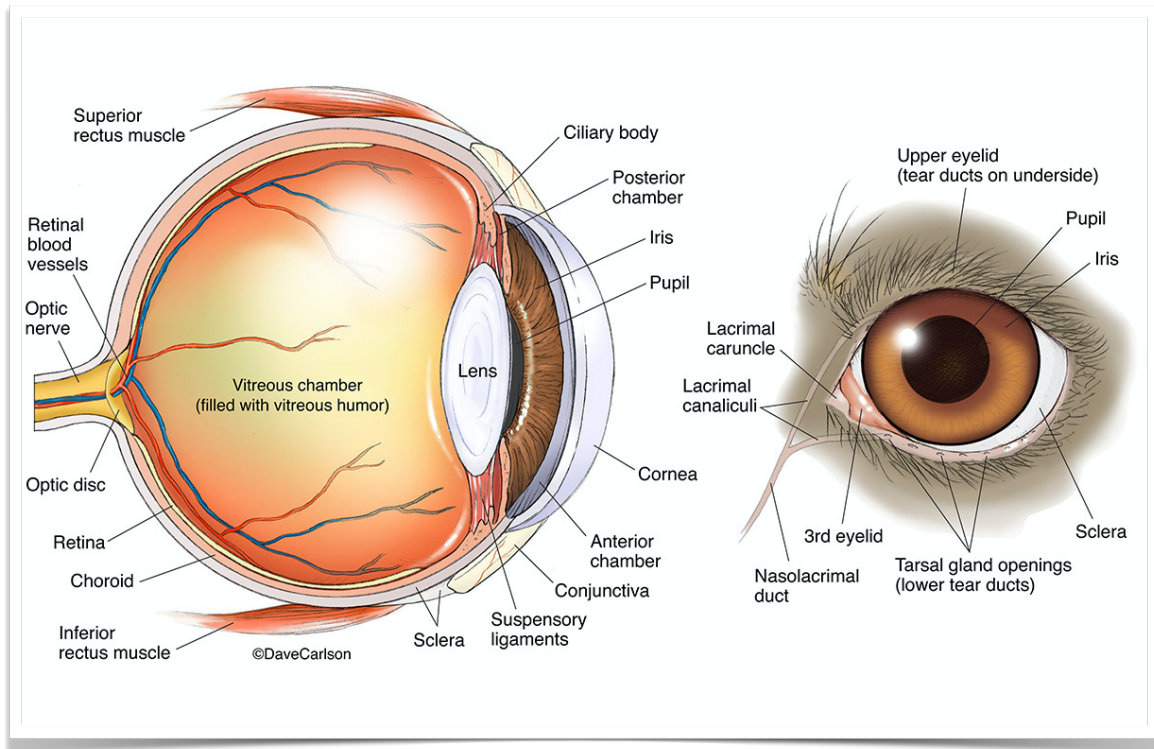


PIGMENTARY UVEITIS

Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis (GRU)



What is Pigmentary Uveitis?

Pigmentary uveitis, also known as Golden Retriever Uveitis (GRU), is an ocular condition commonly seen in the Golden Retriever breed, although other breeds can also be affected. GRU is presumed to be an inherited disease that can lead to severe and vision threatening complications. Uveitis describes inflammation of the uveal tract which is made up of the iris, ciliary body, and choroid. Symptoms of uveitis often include: redness, squinting, photophobia



(light sensitivity), increased tearing/discharge and cloudiness of the eye.

What are the typical clinical signs?

Golden Retriever uveitis is a slowly progressive disease and usually bilateral, although one eye is often more severely affected than the other. Age of onset for GRU ranges from 4 to 15 years of age with an average of 8 years of age. In the early stages of disease, symptoms of inflammation inside of the eye are often subtle and easily missed by the casual observer. Early symptoms are usually mild and may include: redness of the eye, mild squinting, and/or tearing. Many owners assume that these early symptoms are “normal” for their pet.

More specific symptoms of GRU are characterized by pigment dispersion (scattering) and cyst formation inside of the eye. The iris (colored part of the eye) may become hyper-pigmented and appears darker brown or even black in color. Pigmentation on the lens capsule in splotches or a “spoked wheel” pattern is the hallmark of GRU (**Figure 1**). Iris/Uveal cysts are small, fluid-filled structures which can either be attached to the iris and ciliary body or free-floating within the eye (**Figure 2**).

Ophthalmic Findings of Golden Retriever Uveitis

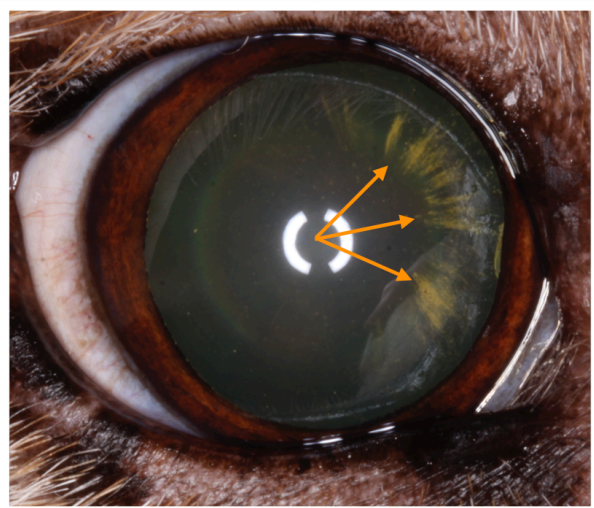


Figure 1. Radial Pigment on Lens Capsule

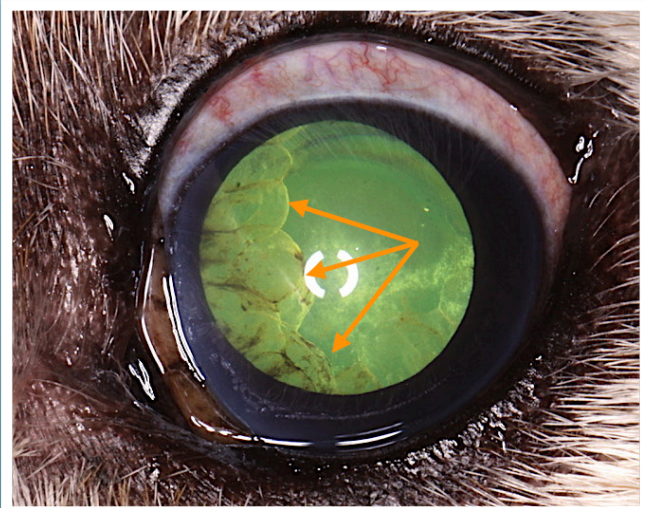


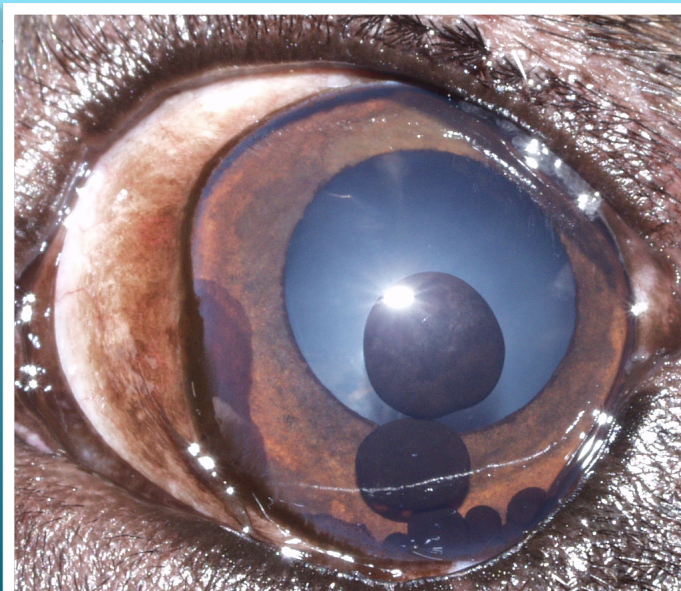
Figure 2. Multiple Uveal Cysts

Clinical signs of GRU are progressive and if left untreated, the chronic inflammation inside of the eyes can lead to **cataract formation (cloudiness of the lens)**, **glaucoma (increased eye pressures)**, and **blindness**.



Iris/Uveal Cysts

The presence of iris/uveal cysts in your Golden Retriever does not necessarily mean that your pet has GRU, but those pets are at an increased risk (36-58% chance) of developing the disease in the future. If your pet is diagnosed with an iris/uveal cysts, we recommend routine exams to monitor for the development of other symptoms typical of Golden Retriever Uveitis.



How is GRU treated?

Treatment for GRU largely depends on the stage at which the disease is diagnosed. The aim of treatment is to control inflammation inside of the eye in order to prevent or delay the onset of cataracts and/or glaucoma.

Individual patient treatment will vary depending on the severity of disease, but will often include an anti-inflammatory eye drop, oral anti-inflammatory medications, or glaucoma medication.



What is the prognosis for GRU?

Golden Retriever Uveitis is a chronic disease that requires life-long treatment to control. The prognosis for GRU is dependent on the stage of disease at the time your pet is diagnosed. Vision loss from secondary glaucoma is reported to occur in 21-46% of eyes with GRU. Long term monitoring and treatment are essential to a visual and comfortable eye for your pet.

Early diagnosis can significantly improve your pet's chances of maintaining vision. Animal Vision Center recommends yearly eye exams for all Golden Retrievers after the age of four.

