

# SEADOWN

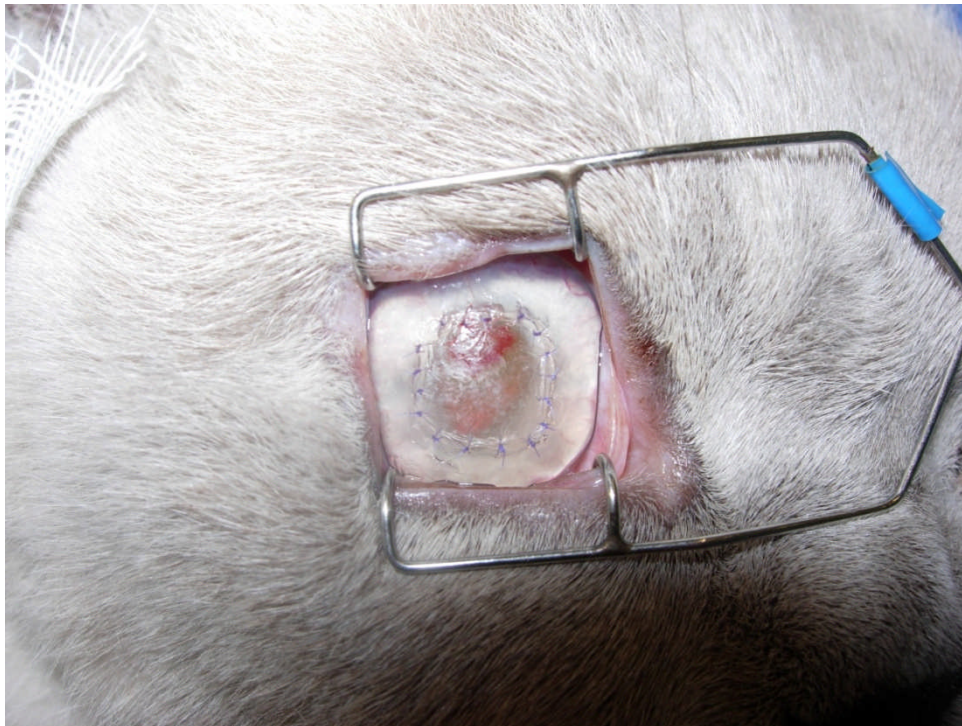
VETERINARY GROUP



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## Corneal ulcers

A corneal ulcer is an area of damage to the surface of the eye. They can occur in any species, but are most frequently diagnosed in horses, dogs and cats. Corneal ulcers are usually uncomfortable and if left untreated, can be sight-threatening. They are most frequently caused by trauma, for example after running through undergrowth. However there are multiple other possible causes, such as abnormal eyelashes or inturning eyelids (entropion). If the ulcer is severe or not responding to treatment, a specialist opinion may be sought.



Ulcers are usually treated with medications, such as antibiotics and painkillers. In some ulcers it may be appropriate to take a swab from the eye if a viral or bacterial infection is suspected; however some cases may require surgical intervention if the eye is seriously damaged. At Seadown we carry out a variety of procedures on a case by case basis. Ulcers may be debrided (loose or damaged tissue removed) under local or general anaesthetic. In some cases a corneal graft may be required, which is often made using tissue surrounding the eye and supports healing of the ulcer. Our operating microscope allows improved visualisation of the eye and means we can operate with very fine instruments and suture material.

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