

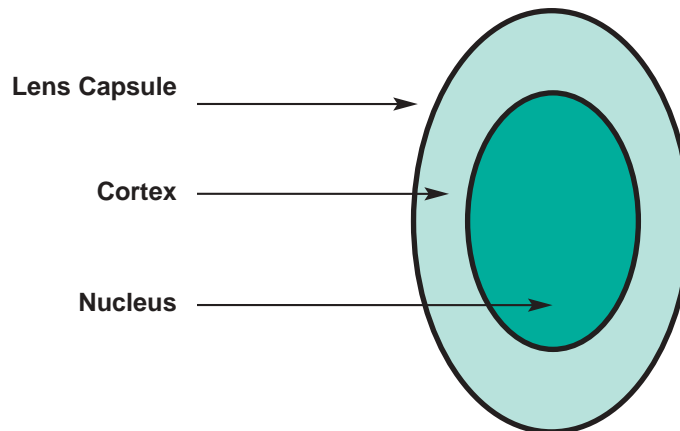


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## Lenticular Sclerosis

The canine lens is composed of three structures: the lens capsule, the cortex and the nucleus.



Lenticular sclerosis, also known as nuclear sclerosis, is a normal change within the lens that occurs with advancing age. The central zone of the lens, also known as the nucleus, becomes denser and appears as a grey haze within the eye. Humans, dogs, cats and horses are all affected by lenticular sclerosis. In humans, nuclear sclerosis results in presbyopia, which is a loss of the ability of the lens to accommodate. Accommodation is the mechanism used to maintain focus on objects that are close up. Accommodation is required in humans for performing routine tasks such as reading. Lenticular sclerosis is the reason that most people who are “forty-something” require reading glasses.

Your pet’s visual acuity will be slightly decreased secondary to lenticular sclerosis; however, these deficits are minimal. Your pet’s vision will be decreased in areas with dim lighting. Lenticular sclerosis is not painful and most cases do not require medical or surgical treatment.

Lenticular sclerosis can be difficult to decipher from cataracts. Cataracts are opacities within the lens nucleus, cortex and/or capsule that can cause blindness. Fortunately, the vision loss from cataracts can be restored in most dogs and cats with cataract surgery.