

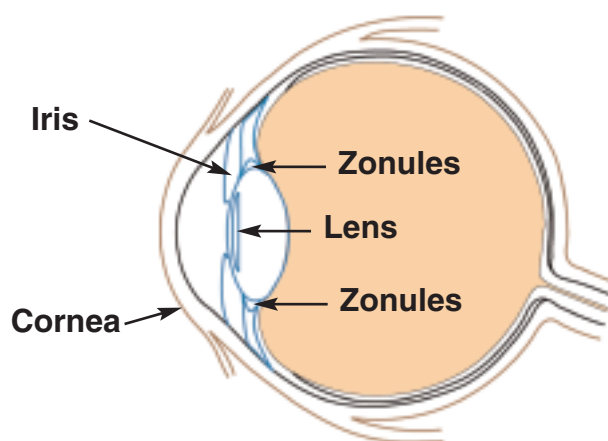


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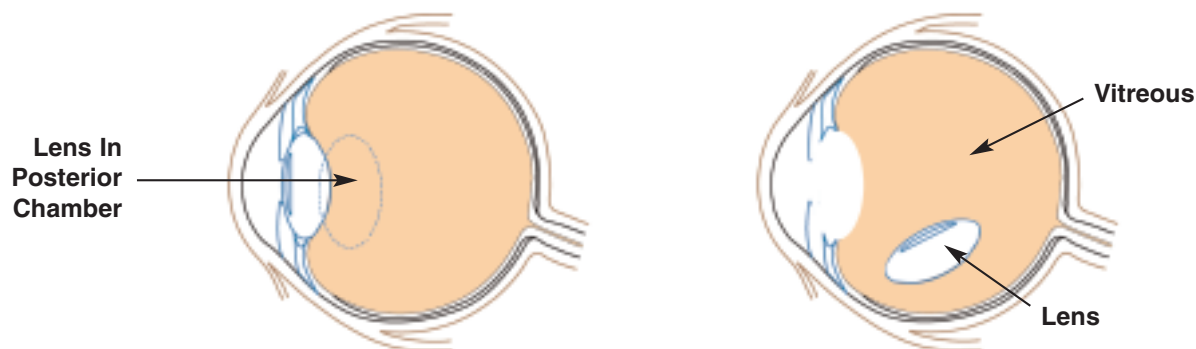
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## Lens Luxation

**What is the lens?** The lens is a structure that is located inside the eye and helps focus light onto the retina to create useful images. The lens is normally located behind the iris. When light passes through the pupil of the eye it is passing through the lens. See the following diagram for clarification.



**What is luxation or subluxation of the lens?** The lens is usually held in place behind the iris by small fibers known as zonules. These zonules anchor the lens in place. When these zonules are disrupted the lens is free to move partially (subluxation) or completely (luxation) from its proper location inside the eye. As the following diagrams show, the lens may move forward (this happens in most cases) or backwards (rarely happens).



**What should be done for my pet with lens luxation?** If the lens falls forward it is very painful for the pet and can be very destructive to the normal eye structures. In this case surgical lens removal is recommended. Medication is typically not effective at keeping the eye comfortable or visual. If the lens falls backwards into the vitreous, surgery may or may not be indicated.

**Why did this happen to my pet?** Lenses can luxate for several reasons; trauma (trauma severe enough to cause luxation usually causes other damage to the eye), secondary to glaucoma, due to cataract formation or due to zonular breakdown caused by age or an inherited defect (most commonly seen in terriers).