Estimates listed below are valid until 3/31/24

Cataract Pre-Evaluation/Surgery Information and Estimate

We perform cataract evaluations on Mondays and Wednesdays. All patients must be up-to-date on vaccinations.
On the day of the initial evaluation, the client will meet with the ophthalmology service team. The initial ophthalmologic exam will be performed and the findings will be discussed with the client. If the ophthalmologist and the client decide to move forward with the cataract work up, the patient will remain for the day for the additional work up.

The cataract work up consists of the electroretinogram (ERG), ultrasound of the eyes and lab testing if necessary. The **estimate for this portion of the initial exam and workup is $850.00 - $996.00**. If the patient is considered a candidate for the cataract surgery, the surgery will be scheduled on the next available surgery opening. If dental disease is present, we may recommend a dental cleaning be performed by the referring veterinarian prior to surgery. Instructions will be given to the client regarding medications, additional testing and appointments.

Surgery (Phacoemulsification):
The client and the patient will arrive at their appointed time the day before the scheduled surgery. They will once again meet with members of the ophthalmology service for an examination and to answer any questions the client may have. The patient will be admitted to the hospital at that time. After surgery the following day, the patient will stay overnight in our 24-hour Intensive Care Unit for monitoring and medication administration. Typically, the patients are discharged from the hospital the day after surgery.
Estimate for the cataract surgery and the initial workup: Unilateral $3,800.00 - *$4,300.00 Bilateral $4,300.00 - *$4,700.00.
Recheck appointments and medication refills not included.

Recheck Appointments:
The client and patient will need to return to UTCVM for follow-up visits. These visits are ***not*** included in the surgery cost. The cataract **surgery recheck appointment estimate is $94.00 - $114.00** not including the cost of medication refills or additional eye drops.

Pre-Operative Workup:
All patients will need a CBC, serum chemistry panel, and urinalysis performed no longer than one month prior to surgery. A prophylactic dental cleaning will be recommended in patients with dental disease. Diabetic patients must have their diabetes under control to be a candidate for cataract surgery. Blood pressure, urine culture (collected sterilely), FASTED triglycerides and cholesterol levels, glucose curve (or FreeStyle Libre monitoring) and/or fructosamine will also be required prior to surgery for diabetic patients. **The glucose curve or FreeStyle Libre monitoring will need to be performed by the referring veterinarian.** All other lab work can be performed at UTCVM or with the referring veterinarian depending on the timing of when surgery is set up. One convenient time for the patient/owner is at the time of the dental cleaning. If a UTI is present, the patient should be treated with the appropriate antibiotic and a repeat culture should be performed after antibiotic therapy is completed to verify the infection is cleared. ***Due to the need for additional testing, diabetic patients tend to run at the high end of the estimate.**

Hospital Payment Policy: https://tiny.utk.edu/utcvmclientpayment
Client information about Cataract Surgery: https://vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc/smallanimalhospital/ophthalmology/
UTCVM Visit Information for Clients: https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMVisitInfo
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRAL!

2407 River Drive – Room C247
Knoxville, TN 37996-4544

Clients and/or Veterinarians
865-974-8387
vetclientservices@utk.edu

Referring Veterinarians ONLY
Referral Coordinators:
865-974-3939
utvetref@utk.edu

vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc

UPDATED 4/14/23