Elizabethan Collar (E-collar)

Your pet has been provided with a plastic Elizabethan collar, or "E-collar." In cases where eyes may be painful or itchy, pets will try to paw the eye or rub the eye against furniture and carpet, potentially worsening the eye condition. It is very important to understand that this is a normal animal reaction to pain and discomfort, and the strict use of the E-collar significantly helps protecting the eye during the healing process. Majority of pets will adjust to the E-collar within few days. However, some pets will try to violently "fight" the E-collar until they get used to it. The length of the E-collar is very important - when looked from the side the E-collar should be slightly longer compared to the nose length. Shortening of the E-collar may result in the pet being able to rub the eye against furniture edges, which may result in the significant ocular damage.

We understand this can be frustrating and inconvenient for pets and owners. However, this is just a temporary and necessary measure to secure the fast and proper healing of the eye problem.

We have provided some tips, which may help you and your pet "survive" the E-collar experience:

Can my pet eat and drink with the collar on?
Yes, pets can normally eat and drink with the collar on, as long as the food and water dish is smaller than the opening of the collar itself. If your pet is reluctant to eat or drink with the collar on, you can elevate the food and water dishes from the ground (elevating dishes 2-4 inches using an old phone book is a good trick), which may help your pet reach them. Furthermore, during the first couple of days, it helps if you can bring food and water dishes close to your pet's mouth during the feeding time, so they can learn that eating and drinking is possible with the collar on. Many pets are reluctant to eat (due to the recent eye surgery or ocular pain) when fitted with the collar. Mixing the regular food with the soft baby food (chicken or liver taste) is usually a very good strategy to stimulate eating.

My pet is bumping into furniture - what can I do?
Pets often have trouble judging distance (especially of side objects), and can have peripheral vision and hearing diminished with the collar on. It is normal for pets to "catch" the walls and furniture with the collar, however pets usually adjust to the collar and navigate well within 3-5 days. It is a safe strategy to walk your pet outside on the leash and with the harness.

My pet is "fighting" the collar - what can I do?
It is very important to be patient with your pet and make sure that they do not harm themselves, while trying to take the collar off. Very rarely pets which develop a high level of anxiety may need a low dose of sedating medications in the first 2-3 days, until they get used to the collar.

My pet developed the skin and ear infections after wearing the collar - what can I do?
Keep the collar dry and clean at all times to prevent skin infections. If the collar needs to be cleaned, please use the soap and warm water to clean it, and thoroughly wipe it so it is completely dry before being placed back on your pet. You can also trim the hair of the neck, face and ears to prevent moisture accumulation. If the collar is rubbing against the skin, you can try to pad the edges in the contact with the skin it with a clean cloth, which should be changed daily.

My pet needs a bath - what can I do?
The face and eyelids may be cleaned with a warm, moist wash-cloth (or wet cotton balls) with no soap. Over the counter eyewash solutions can be used to rinse the surface of the eye. Please make sure that you purchase the eyewash solution and not the contact lens cleaning solution (contact lens cleaning solutions may contain preservatives, which can be irritating to eyes with a damage or recent surgery)

I have other pets in the house - are they allowed to play?
Excessive playing, jumping or licking on freshly operated eyes should be limited to the maximum possible extent.