

What to Expect: During Your Animal's Stay With Ophthalmology

About the Department

The Tufts large animal ophthalmology service offers state of the art care for the eyes of your horse, camelid, ruminant, or other large animal companion. We provide a full range of diagnostic services, including vision evaluation, ocular ultrasound, electroretinography, CT, and MRI.

Surgical procedures, ranging from management of eyelid tumors and lacerations, to laser treatment for cysts and glaucoma, to corneal grafting and placement of episcleral cyclosporine implants for equine recurrent uveitis, are regularly performed by Dr. Pizzirani and Dr. Pumphrey, with the assistance of their team of residents and interns. Many procedures can be performed under standing sedation. In cases where general anesthesia is required, we work in conjunction with our experienced anesthesia department, staffed by 5 board-certified anesthesiologists, 3 full-time anesthesia residents, and anesthesia technicians with years of equine and other large animal experience.

We also work closely with our large animal internal medicine team to ensure that your animal receives the best of care. They provide guidance for outpatients with concurrent medical issues, and they partner with us to provide care for hospitalized patients. Our skilled and caring large animal technician and barn staff make sure your horse or other large animal companion receives the best of care with a minimum of stress.

Staying in the Hospital

- If your animal needs to stay with us for any period of time, we will do our best to advise you ahead of time as to the anticipated scheduling of procedures and other events.
- We will do our best to maintain your animal's normal feeding regimen and schedule.
- The ophthalmology service will update you daily regarding your animal's progress, and will inform you in a timely manner regarding any changes in the status of your animal's eyes. We will also update you as to costs regarding care for your animal's eyes.
- Horses in particular can be delicate. Sometimes colic, diarrhea, or other non-ocular medical issues can arise in hospitalized patients. The internal medicine service will manage this part of your animal's health and intervene should any non-ocular needs arise. A member of the medicine team may contact you directly if there are any significant changes in your animal's overall health status and will inform you regarding estimated costs associated with other health needs.
- When your animal is receiving certain commonly used medications, like Banamine, we perform regular monitoring to ensure their organs are tolerating the medications. The cost of this monitoring is generally built into the estimate you received for your animal's care.
- The Large Animal Hospital takes infection control very seriously and we have strict biosecurity protocols in place designed to protect patients from infectious disease. Should your animal exhibit any signs of infectious disease, additional testing may be necessary and/or your animal may need to move into our isolation building. These costs are generally NOT included in the estimate you received for your animal's care. Should such testing become necessary, a member of the medicine team will contact you.

Discharging from the Hospital

- At time of discharge, you will receive a report that summarizes the evaluation, findings, diagnostic results and treatment recommendations.
- Please limit personal items as storage space is limited. Please be sure all personal items are taken at time of discharge. The Hospital for Large Animals cannot be responsible for lost items and any perishables will be discarded.
- Unused Medications: Unfortunately, cannot be returned.
- You may purchase medications and bandaging materials from our pharmacy.
- We understand that transport for large animals can be challenging and we do our best to be flexible with our discharge hours. However, please be aware that if you arrive during one of our main treatment times or if you arrive at a time when emergency cases are being admitted into the hospital, our technicians might not be able to discuss your animal's discharge instructions with you at length. For that reason, we generally try to review the instructions with you by phone prior to your arrival to pick up your animal.
- Followup evaluations are often needed to monitor progress and prevent complications.

Emergency Services

We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for medical and surgical emergencies. If have an emergency, please contact us at 508-839-7926 prior to arrival to speak with the on call veterinarian.



Contact Information

- Liaison
 - Courtney Halfrey
508-948-7695 (cell/text)
largeanimalcommunications@tufts.edu
- Faculty
 - Stefano Pizzirani, DVM, DACVO
 - Stephanie Pumphrey DVM, DACVO
- Residents and Interns
 - Stacey Halse DVM
 - Sujata Desai DVM
- Veterinary Technician
 - Tracy Elmes
 - Denise Sheldon

Scheduling an Appointment

Appointments can be made by calling 508-948-7695 between 8:00am - 4:00pm. If you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, please call us to re-schedule.

Payment

Payment in full is expected at the time of discharge. For those animals that will be hospitalized, you will be provided an estimate in writing and are expected to leave a deposit of 75% of the estimate. Care Credit financing is available and hospital staff can assist you with the application process.

Visiting Hours

- Weekdays: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Weekends: 1:00 pm to 4:00pm
- Holidays: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

We request that you stay with your animal. No food or drinks are permitted in the hospital wards. Feel free to visit Elm's Café on campus, which is open until 3pm weekdays. Please check with Clinician prior to visiting to ensure the patient is able to have visitors.