



Assessing a Diagnostic Tool for Eye Diseases Chris G. Pirie, DVM, DACVO, Tufts University

RESULTS: New Diagnostic Tool Makes Eye Imaging More Affordable for Veterinary Clinics

Human doctors use indocyanine green fluorescence angiography (ICGFA), a state-of-the-art eye-imaging procedure, for diagnosing, treating and preventing many sight-threatening eye diseases. ICGFA is most commonly used to evaluate the vasculature of the eye, which helps doctors detect and manage such conditions as glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration. Although companion animals suffer from similar diseases, the high cost has made this type of high-quality ocular imaging prohibitive in veterinary medicine.

In hopes of making ICGFA imaging more affordable for the veterinary community, researchers at Tufts University, funded by Morris Animal Foundation, evaluated the diagnostic capabilities of a compact, inexpensive camera adapter as a substitute for the more expensive system. With this technology, the research team successfully imaged the front portion (iris vasculature) and back portion (retinal and choroidal vasculature) of the eye in dogs. Results of this pilot study also provided data regarding clinically normal blood-flow patterns in the canine eye.

The compact and affordable camera adapter makes ICGFA imaging within financial reach of many veterinarians and holds promise for improving companion animal health. (D13CA-802)