

**Subject:** Blindness in general.

**Problem:** Blindness.

This can be caused by a lot of reasons. They can be separated in 4 main groups:

- a) A defect in **the optical system of the eye**. For example : the lens, the cornea or the vitreous may not be transparent anymore. The opacity is disturbed.
- b) Changes of **the retina**. For example detachment or hemorrhage (blood). Due to this the light can't be caught in the eye very well, so that it causes loss of vision.
- c) A defect in **the nerve-signal transmission** from the eye to the brains. The light can be caught by the intact eye, but the brain doesn't receive any information. Now the animal isn't aware his vision-information.
- d) **Brain-damage** due to severe blood loss or oxygen-deficiency. Now the brain does receive information, but isn't able to do something with it. This is called cortical (brain) blindness.

These 4 main groups can be caused by a lot of different reasons. For example: vitamin-deficiency (vit.A), poisoning (lead), inborn error (heritable), infection, trauma, tumor, degeneration and many more causes.

**Symptoms:** blindness. Animal can bump up against objects, the animal can be calmer or frightener in unpredictable situations.

**Therapy/advice:** depending on the cause of the blindness. Contact the V.I.S.-service of the DIO foundation for more detailed information.

*Trefwoorden: blindness, general information, all species.*