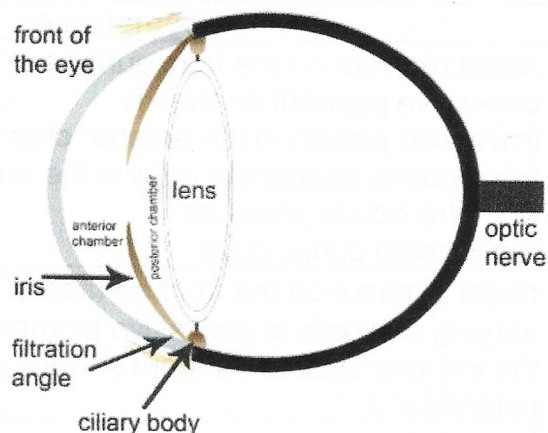


Diagnostic Criteria for Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis

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Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis (GRPU) is an inflammatory disease of the eye recognized in Golden Retrievers throughout the United States and Canada. It was first described in the scientific literature in 1996 and is now recognized as common in Golden Retrievers over eight years of age in the United States. Despite ongoing research to understand the underlying genetics and disease mechanisms, many challenges remain for Golden Retriever owners and breeders trying to minimize the risks and damage caused by GRPU. The disease occurs equally in male and female dogs. It usually, but not always, affects both eyes. The disease appears later in life, affecting dogs at an average age of 8.5 years. This late age of onset represents one of the major challenges of GRPU, since by the time of diagnosis, affected dogs may have already produced multiple offspring. While GRPU is a heritable disease, the pattern of inheritance and underlying genetic cause(s) remain unknown.

Another challenge presented by GRPU has been the perceived inconsistency in what examination findings warrant a positive diagnosis. Recently, current and former members of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists' (ACVO) Genetics Committee came together to create and publish clear diagnostic guidelines. With funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, these updated diagnostic criteria for GRPU were recently published in the open source journal *Veterinary Ophthalmology*¹ and are summarized here.



*Fig 1: Diagram of the canine eye
(courtesy of Ann Hubbs, DVM, PhD)*