

and they are most likely old macrophages (Fig. 3). Sections of the central retina show severe distortion, which also suggests contraction and fibrosis of the vitreous. Moreover, the absence of outer segments of photoreceptors and the dearth of inner segments of photoreceptors (Fig. 3) suggest that the retina has been detached for many weeks or months. Considering the severe anterior synechiae (Fig. 2), it is likely this ferret had secondary glaucoma caused by synechial-induced closure of the ocular drainage channels.

In young mice, old healed corneal ulcers are common. These usually happen shortly after the eyes open (P14 in mice), a time when most rodents do not blink much. Consequently, blepharospasm, seen in adults with corneal ulcers, is not noticeable in very young mice. Because pre-weaned animals spend most of their time sleeping or suckling, animal caretakers may not notice corneal clouding, another indication of corneal ulcer in adult animals. Bedding, fecal pellets, and accidental littermate trauma are all causes of corneal ulcer in young mice, and are a likely source of the original corneal injury in this young ferret.

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Column Editor replies:

In some tissues, anatomical details are relatively simple and easily analyzed histologically. The eye, however, is a complex structure with important regional anatomical variations that make histological interpretation challenging at best. If the orientation of the eye during sectioning is not carefully controlled, it is easy to make erroneous interpretations. For this and other reasons, eye pathology is a recognized subspecialty of pathology.

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