

Ectropion

What is it?

A condition which consists of eversion of part or the entire eyelid, away from the eye. The lid of the eye turns outward.

What causes it?

Developmental: Certain breeds (bloodhound, Saint Bernard, Great Dane, bullmastiff, Newfoundland, and some spaniels) are prone to ectropion. It can be related to abnormal skull or eye shape, or macroblepharon (large eyelids).

Acquired: Eyelid Trauma, blepharitis (inflamed eyelid), old age and loss of muscle tone around the eye, and facial nerve paralysis can cause ectropion. Transient ectropion can be caused by laxity of the eyelid following excessive exercise in breeds with long lower eyelids or relaxation.



Signs & Symptoms

There may be ocular discharge, “Red Eye”, or droopy/long lower lids.

Testing

Physical exam will show an everted eyelid. There may be conjunctivitis or lagopthalmos (incomplete closure of the eyelid). Ectropion is clearly visible. The veterinarian may perform a complete ophthalmic examination, the Schirmer tear test, Fluorescein dye application and intraocular pressure reading.

Treatment:

Mild ectropion may be desired in some breeds such as the bloodhound, and can be left alone. Surgery is rarely needed unless the ectropion severe or entropion is concurrent. In severe cases the eyelids are shortened. In cases where scars cause entropion, a V-Y blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) may be used.

This information is not meant to be a substitute for veterinary care.

Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

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