

Entropion

What is it?

A common condition where part or all of the eyelid folds inward toward the eye. As a result the cornea may become scratched or ulcerated by the eyelashes and hair around the eyes.



What causes it?

Developmental: Certain breeds are predisposed to entropion. It can be related to abnormal conformation around the eye, small eyelids, or excessive dorsal (top of the head) skinfolds (upper eyelid entropion).
Acquired: Entropion can be caused by excessive scarring and contraction of the eyelid, resulting from an injury or inflammation. Eye abnormalities that contribute to decreased orbital support, can lead to the loss of lid support and result in entropion. Ocular conditions that contribute to blepharospasm (squinting or blinking spasmodically), such as conjunctivitis, corneal ulceration, eyelid trauma, old age, blepharitis (inflamed eyelid), phthisis bulbi (shrunken, non-functional eye), and enophthalmos (neurological disorder which causes a sunken eye) may lead to entropion.

Signs & Symptoms

Many dogs with entropion will squint and tear excessively. Eyes may be excessively red and lids may look puffy. Ulcerative or non-ulcerative keratitis (inflammation of the cornea) may be present.

Testing

Upon examination, abnormal lid conformation will be confirmed: eyelid and facial hair will be directed toward the conjunctiva and cornea. The veterinarian may perform a complete ophthalmic examination, the Schirmer tear test, Fluorescein dye application and intraocular pressure reading.

Treatment:

Resolve any underlying painful ocular disease and restore normal lid conformation. Topical anesthetic is applied to evaluate the degree of spastic entropion (entropion caused by pain vs primary ocular disease such as keratitis). Spastic entropion will temporarily resolve or decrease in severity after application of an anesthetic. If the entropion is not caused by an ocular disease, but is developmental, it will have to be surgically corrected. Temporary correction, until adult conformation is reached, consists of rolling the eyelid away from the eyes and placing a temporary suture in the eyelid. Sometimes this is enough. Permanent correction can be done once the dog is an adult, and involves surgically correcting eyelid conformation.

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

Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

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