Optivet Referrals

CHERRY EYE & CARTILAGE EVERSION

WHAT IS CHERRY EYE?
Prolapsed gland and cartilage eversion are both conditions of the nictitans membrane in the dog. This is the inner eyelid that glides across the cornea, spreading and producing tears. Cherry Eye is the name given to the prolapse of the gland of the inner eyelids, and is thought to be due to the weakness in the collagen tissue in this area. Cartilage eversion results in kinking of the cartilage and the third eyelid sitting abnormally. Most dogs with a prolapsed gland are less than 2 years of age.

CLINICAL SIGNS
- Appearance of a ‘red cherry’ sitting over the eye
- Water/mucky discharge
- Red/inflamed prominent tissue

CHERRY EYE TREATMENT
Ointments can be prescribed to make the eye more comfortable but surgery is required to permanently fix the gland into a normal position. The most common procedure to address cherry eye is the ‘pocket technique’, which maintains the function of the gland, resulting in a success rate of over 90%. Alternatively, the ‘anchoring’ technique can be performed. Sometimes these techniques can be combined, depending on the presenting case.

TREATMENT OF CARTILAGE EVERSION
This surgery is demanding, as there are often several abnormalities present. A modified cherry eye surgery will often be performed in conjunction with removal of the kinked section of cartilage.

THE OTHER EYE
Cherry eye is unilateral in 64% of cases. In cases where both eyes are affected 40% will occur at the same time. We will often recommend pre-emptive surgery in the other eye if there is sign of early prolapse.

GLAND REMOVAL
We do not recommend removal of the gland, as this can lead to long-term complications; a lack of tears can lead to corneal surface disease such as ulceration, pain and loss of the eye.
COMMONLY AFFECTED BREEDS: CARTILAGE EVERSION

- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Bullmastiff
- Curly-coated Retriever
- Neopolitan Mastiff
- Weimaraner
- Great Dane

COMMONLY AFFECTED BREEDS: CHERRY EYE

- Bulldog
- Maltese
- Shar Pei
- Cocker Spaniel
- Great Dane

COMPLICATIONS

Repeat surgery is necessary for some cases if the gland re-prolapses. This occurs in approximately 10% of cases. Re-prolapse is most common in pets which have had previous surgery in that area. Other rare post-operative complications include: infection, haemorrhage, suture irritation of the cornea, cyst formations, chronic gland inflammation, and inflammation of the anchoring site. Post-surgical inflammation may take 1-2 weeks to resolve.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us.
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