

# 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 eyelid, 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.

## TREATMENT OF CARTILIDGE EVERSION

This surgery is demanding, as there are often several abnormalities present. Often, a modified cherry cye surgery will be performed in conjunction with removal of the kinked section of cartilage.

## THE OTHER EYE

Cherry eye is unilateral in 64% of cases. 41% bilateral cases will occur simultaneously, in over 70% the other gland will prolapse within 3 months.

## 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 a surgery is required to permanently fix the gland into a normal position.

Removal of the gland is not recommended as this can lead to long-term complications; a lack of tears can lead to corneal surface disease such as ulceration and pain. 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 95%. Alternatively, the 'anchoring' technique can be performed. Sometimes these techniques can be combined, depending on the presenting case.

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## 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 animals 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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Visit our website: [www.optivet.com](http://www.optivet.com)

## COMMONLY AFFECTED BREEDS: CHERRY EYE

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

## COMMONLY AFFECTED BREEDS: CARTILAGE EVERSION

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



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