

Dry eye

This is a common eye condition in dogs, which usually occurs in both eyes and is caused by minimal or the lack of tear production from the tear glands. It is quite an uncomfortable condition and if not treated, this can unfortunately lead to conjunctivitis, some cases ulcers and in severe cases vision impairment due to secondary problems occurring.

Predisposed breeds include (but not limited to):

- Bloodhounds
- Boston terriers
- Cavalier king charles spaniels
- English Bulldogs
- Pugs
- Shih Tzus
- Yorkshire Terriers

Life long treatment of multiple eye drops is often required.

Clinical signs:

The signs of dry eye vary slightly on severity and if there are any secondary conditions present. However, they often include:

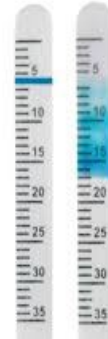
- Discomfort
- Rubbing at eyes
- Blinking more often
- Sticky discharge from eyes (varies in colour)
- Dullness of eyes
- Returning conjunctivitis
- Redness of eyes



Dry eye testing

Diagnosis:

Dry eye diagnosis is very simple with the use of a 'schirmer tear tests' (as shown below). These measure the amount of tears produced by each eye in 1minute. The normal range should be 15-25mm/minute. This is shown as tears are absorbed and blue dye travels down the paper tests that rest in the eyelids of the dogs.



Treatment – This may be life long and may include multiple of these options due to the risk of secondary conditions. Treatments may include:

Cyclosporin eye ointment

Eye drops

Pain relief



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