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JAR's

Eye Infections in Dogs

Eye infections are not uncommon in dogs; in fact, some dog breeds are more prone to eye infections. Dog breeds like the Maltese, Shih Tzu, Lhasa Apso and other dog breeds that are prone to tear staining are also more apt to develop eye infections. The conditions that cause tear staining in dogs - eye discharge and fur around the eyes that captures the moisture from excessive tearing - will also cause eye infections in dogs.

What are the Symptoms of an Eye Infection in a Dog?

A dog with an eye infection will show several symptoms, including the following signs which can affect one or both eyes:

- Eye discharge: In a dog with an eye infection, discharge is often thick and yellow or greenish in color.
- Red, swollen eyes: In the case of an eye infection, the eyelids and area around the dog's eye will often become swollen and red.
- Bloodshot eyes: The dog's eyes may become bloodshot if an infection is present.
- Squinting: Dogs will often squint if they have developed an eye infection.
- Pawing the eye: A dog with an eye infection may paw at the affected eye.

It's important to note that dog allergies can create symptoms that are similar to an eye infection. A dog with seasonal allergies or a dog who's been exposed to dust or similar particles in the air may experience eye discharge, redness and even slight swelling.

Eye injuries can also cause redness, swelling and tearing. So for this reason, it's important to get the dog's eye problem diagnosed by a veterinarian in a timely manner to avoid permanent damage to the dog's eyes.

What Should I Do if my Dog Gets an Eye Infection?

There is no home remedy for an eye infection in a dog. Unfortunately, if a dog gets an eye infection, a visit to the Vet will be required. Indeed, eye infections, like most other infections, cannot be treated at home.

A dog who is diagnosed with an eye infection will usually be prescribed an antibiotic eye ointment for a period of approximately 10 days. In more severe cases of eye infection, the dog may also be prescribed oral antibiotics.

It's important to note that some eye infections, like conjunctivitis, can be very contagious to other pets in the household, so timely diagnosis and treatment is vital to ensure that other family pets remain healthy.

Dog eye infection has several causes. If your dog's eyes appear red or inflamed, if she has unusual drainage from her eyes (some moisture in the eyes is normal and healthy; you will know what is normal for your pet), or if she seems to be having trouble seeing or to be especially sensitive to the light, see your veterinarian for a diagnosis.

Eye infections may become chronic if not treated and can cause permanent damage if neglected.



Jaiya's Animal Rescue

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Blog: <http://jarshanghai.wordpress.com>
e-mail: shanghaidogs@gmail.com





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If you think allergies or something in the environment are the cause, you can try an over the counter saline solution as an eye wash. If you see no improvement after 2 days then go to the Vet. If you suspect an eye tumor you must take your dog to the Vet immediately.

Dog Conjunctivitis (dog pink eye)

This is the most common dog eye infection. It is an inflammation of the membrane covering the inside of the eyelids and the front of the eye also called the mucous membranes of the eye. It often just affects one eye, although it can affect both. The eye becomes red and inflamed. There may be clear or mucous discharge from the eye. It is usually caused by viruses or bacteria. Less often, it may be caused by parasites or by allergies.

A common primary cause of canine conjunctivitis is chronic irritation and/or exposure resulting from anatomical problems of the lids (entropion, ectropion) or eyelashes (e.g., distichia, trichiasis). Irritation may also result from nasal folds and exposure in brachycephalic breeds, as well as exposure to chemicals, wind and dust. Canine conjunctivitis does not cause a change in vision. Pain is not associated with the disease and redness is moderate to minor. A common primary cause of canine conjunctivitis is chronic irritation or exposure resulting from the incorrect way the eyelids (distichia, trichiasis) or eyelashes functioning. Redness may also be caused by nasal problems and exposure to environmental toxins such as chemicals, wind or dust.

Blindness in Dogs

There are several conditions that can cause blindness in dogs. Blindness is difficult to detect since dogs are capable of seeing out of one eye and compensate for impaired vision by memorizing their surroundings. It is also possible for dogs to suffer night blindness and see with no problem during the day. Common causes of blindness include retinal detachment or inflammation in the eye due to an infectious disease such as distemper.

Color Blindness in Dogs

Dogs naturally see fewer colors than humans. Color blindness in dogs includes the colors red, orange or green. Dogs have not problem seeing the colors yellow, blue and violet.

Treatment for Dog Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is usually treated with medicated (antibiotic) eye drops. These are administered several times a day and will lead to a dog conjunctivitis cure. In addition, the cause of the conjunctivitis must be treated. This may mean oral antibiotics will be prescribed, or allergy medication given.

An approach you can try at home is to clean the discharge from your dog's eyelids. Wet a soft, clean cloth or cotton ball with luke-warm water, squeeze it out and gently wipe away the discharge from around each eye that is affected. Repeat twice a day or as often as needed. You can also try a scrub such as an over the counter eye scrub such as Eye Clear. Eye scrubs are pH-balanced and may cause less stinging than water.



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Another approach is to help your dog shed some tears. Eye scrubs help keep the lids clean, you'll also want to wash the surface of the eye. A good way to do this is with artificial tears, which can help wash away particles that may be causing the problem. For added relief try applying a compress. Covering your dog's eyes with a damp, warm compress can be soothing. Apply for 5 minutes. Rinse the cloth first is applying to more than one eye. Grooming can help prevent eye irritations by keeping hair out of the eye. Hair around the corners of the eye can cause canine conjunctivitis. Brushing the hair away from the eyes can help as well.

Canine Glaucoma

The most noticeable symptom of glaucoma is a reduced capacity to see. In canine glaucoma cases the globe of the eye may be enlarged (buphthalmous) or sunken (enophthalmic) causing the third eyelid to stick out a bit. Bad cases of glaucoma cause pain that could also result in behavioral change.

Treatment for Dog Glaucoma

There are five classes of drugs that are use in the suppression of IOP levels that cause canine glaucoma:

- aqueous formation suppressors
- miotics
- uveoscleral outflow enhancers
- hyperosmotic agents
- neuroprotection agents

Common drugs include Methazolamide (for corneal pressure),

Timolol Opth Soln, Trusopt Ophthalmic Solution (for pressure) and Pilocarpine 2% Ophthalmic Solution.

If drugs cannot reduce IOP levels in canine glaucoma then surgery may be called for.

Dog Eye Infection Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (Dry Eye)

This is a condition in which there is inadequate production of tears in the eye. The eyes are too dry and the corneas can be damaged. There is also the risk of ulcers (sores) on the eye. In some cases, this is a chronic infection, requiring long-term treatment.

Treatment for Keratoconjunctivitis sicca

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca is treated with artificial tears (eye drops that are formulated to resemble the composition of natural tears), tear stimulants, and anti-inflammatory eye drops. Oral anti-inflammatory medications may also be prescribed.

Uveitis Dog Eye Infection

This is an inflammation of the interior of the eye. Symptoms include redness of the eye, sensitivity to light (photophobia), blurred vision, and eye pain. Blindness can occur if it is not treated. Causes include infectious disease, including viral, bacterial, fungal, protozoal and rickettsial.

Uveitis Treatment for Dog Eye Infection

This is treated with glucocorticoid steroid eye drops, such as betamethasone, dexamethasone, or prednisolone. Oral steroids, such as prednisone, may also be prescribed.



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Dog Eye Infection Homeopathic Treatment

After checking with your veterinarian, natural approaches to treatment contains herbal tincture and can effectively treat and prevent eye infections in dogs as well as improve general eye and visual health.

Common ingredients in homeopathic eye home remedies include:

- Arctium lappa (Burdock) cleansing and eliminating herb and is excellent at detoxifying the tissues and removing unwanted substances from the body.
- Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary) is well-known as a topical antiseptic/disinfectant, pain-relieving herb with anti-inflammatory effects.
- Chelidonium majus is used to boost the immune system, combat infections, sharpen sight, promote healing and act as an analgesic (pain killer).
- Filipendula ulmaria (Meadowsweet) Has astringent, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties and is excellent for soothing and healing infections of the eyes and conjunctiva.



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