



Abnormalities of the Third Eyelid

Cherry Eyes

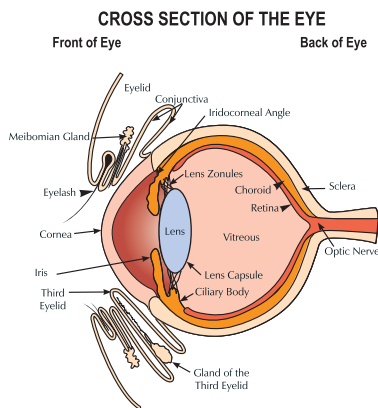


Location of 3rd eyelid

Prolapse of the Third Eyelid gland, commonly known as “Cherry Eye”, is a relatively common condition. This prolapse occurs owing to a weakness of the tissue (*fascia*) which holds the gland in its normal position. Certain breeds such as *Maltese Terriers*, *Bull Dogs*, *Cocker Spaniels*, *Beagles*, *Pekingese*, *Shih Tzus*, and *Lhasa Apsos* are predisposed to this condition.



Cherry Eye



In the past, treatment involved removing the gland altogether. The major problem is that this gland contributes up to 30 % of tear production in the eye. Therefore, animals that have had the Third Eyelid glands removed may develop dry eyes, which can be very difficult and expensive to treat. (*The effects are often not seen for 1-2 years.*) We believe that the best treatment is to replace the gland into its normal position.

Treatment

There are various techniques used. Unfortunately no technique is 100% successful. Most of the techniques used now are 85-90% reliable, yet some cases need to have a repeat surgery. Generally it is best to operate early. The longer the gland of the third eyelid is prolapsed, the more likely complications are to arise.



Other Third Eyelid Problems

The Third Eyelid has cartilage in it which is responsible for maintaining the normal structure of the third eyelid.

In some giant breeds, such as *Newfoundlands*, *St Bernards*, *Mastiffs*, *Bloodhounds* and *Great Danes*, there can be an abnormality of this cartilage. This is called a *scrolled* cartilage. The problem is an anatomic one, and surgery is needed.

The procedure is very successful, but there are chances of complications as with any surgery. After surgery, your pet may need to have drops or ointment placed into the eye.

