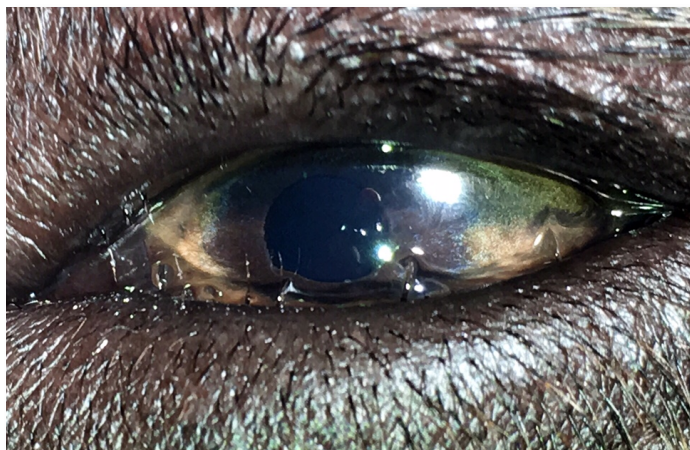


Staffordshire Bull Terrier

eye diseases



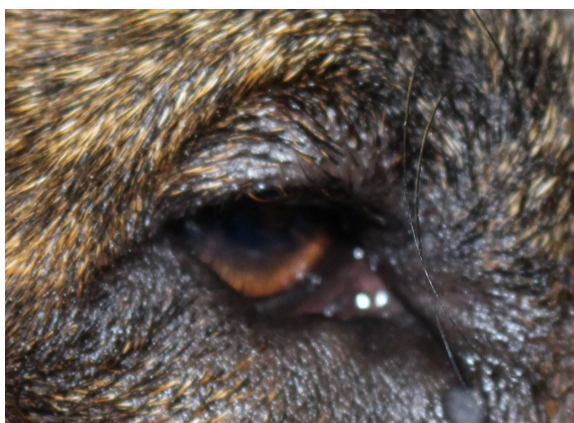
Distichia

This is commonly seen in this breed. Distichia or extra eyelashes are a second row of eyelashes that grow out of the meibomian glands on the eyelid margin. These eyelashes are not normal and in some patients can rub on the corneal surface and cause painful ulcers.

Surgery

Under an operating microscope the roots are cut out. (see image) The hairs are then easily

removed. The wound is small and no suturing is required. Usually only one surgery is required, but in severe cases a second surgery may be required.



Canine Entropion

Entropion is a common condition in dogs. Either the upper or lower eyelid may roll onto the cornea and the hairs then rub against it. Complications of entropion include corneal vascularisation (blood vessels growing onto the cornea), corneal scarring, corneal ulceration, dry eye and in severe cases vision loss.

Surgery

Each case is different and a combination of rollouts, lifts, shortenings or corner closures are used. We perform all

our surgery using an operating microscope to achieve the best results. Sutures are dissolving and don't require removal. An Elizabethan collar is essential postoperatively to protect the surgery sites.

Dry Eye

Dry eye is a common condition seen in dogs. It is also known as keratoconjunctivitis sicca or KCS. The normal tear reading for a dog is over 15mm/min. Dry eye is diagnosed when the tear reading falls below 10 mm/min. The usual cause is immune-mediated inflammation that damages the gland and affects its function, however some cases can be due to reduced nerve supply (neurogenic). Most eyes have lots of mucky discharge and can develop corneal ulcers.



Treatment

Dry eye is treated with topical immunosuppressive drugs such as Tacrolimus 0.02% with other drugs depending on each case. A stronger Tacrolimus ointment is available for cases that don't respond as predicted and we have had promising results. Keeping the eye clean and lubricated is also important, but once the tear production is increased this is usually no longer necessary. Additional drugs are used in neurogenic cases. Some cases require surgery to transplant the salivary duct into the lower eyelid to keep the eye comfortably wet with saliva.



Photo: Rizenstar SBT and ASBT

PHPV AND PHTVL

Persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous/
Persistent hyperplastic tunica vasculosa lentis is a condition seen more in the past in Staffies and Dobermans. During development, there is a blood supply arising near the optic nerve to the back of the lens. This hyaloid artery, branches over the back of the lens forming the tunica vasculosa lentis (which is a network of blood vessels) and supplies the lens during its development. PHPV occurs when the normal regression/resorption of these structures doesn't occur (usually by 2 weeks of age). Varying degrees of blood vessels and associated plaques/cataracts remain at the back of the lens. In some cases these are severe and affect vision.

Dogs with this condition should not be bred. This is checked for at the ACES Eye Certification, as are all of the conditions listed here.

Cataracts

Inherited cataracts have been identified in this breed since the 1970's. Affected dogs develop cataracts by one year of age which can progress to blindness by 3 years old. Most cataracts start at the centre or back of the lens and progress from there. The gene mutation associated with this cataract was identified over 10 years ago and there is a DNA test available. The inheritance was found to be autosomal recessive which means that it is passed on by both parents.

