

Entropion & Ectropion



Entropion

What is Entropion?

Entropion is a condition in which the eyelid margin inverts or rolls in such a way that normal hairs on the skin contact the surface of the eye and cause discomfort and irritation. It is more common for the lower lid to be affected and this ocular disease is more common in dogs than cats.

What are the symptoms of Entropion?

The most common clinical signs are a watery or mucid ocular discharge, conjunctival redness and ocular discomfort (eye closed or rubbing at eyes) but periocular alopecia (loss of hair), corneal ulcerations, corneal redness (neovascularisation) and corneal pigmentation can be also present.

Which breeds can get entropion?

Any breed can develop an entropion however, Shar Pei, Chow Chow, British Bulldog, Labrador Retriever, Pug, English Springer Spaniel and Old English Sheep Dog are overrepresented.

How do we treat entropion?

The method chosen to correct entropion depends on the degree of facial maturity, the severity and position of eyelid abnormality. In puppies, sometimes temporary tacking sutures or a temporary partial tarsorrhaphy are used to treat the problem whilst the animal continues to grow, before performing permanent corrective surgery. In more mature dogs, surgical correction is often required. The type of surgery will be planned by the ophthalmologist and in some cases more than one surgery will be needed to correct the entropion.

Is surgery the only option?

In some cases, a non-permanent procedure may be suitable, in which a subdermal filler is injected to correct the entropion. This is sometimes required for elderly patients, or patients with high anaesthetic risk. This procedure can be performed conscious or under sedation. It is not a permanent procedure so several cases need a second or third injection.



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Ectropion

What is Ectropion?

Ectropion is the eversion (outwards rolling) of the eyelid(s). The most common type is conformational and related to the breed.

What breed can get ectropion?

Any breed but the most common are those dogs with loose facial skin, such as Retriever, Saint Bernards, Bloodhounds, Bulldogs and Cocker spaniels.

How do we treat ectropion?

If the ectropion is severe and left untreated it may result in evaporative dry eye disease, periocular dermatitis and/or recurrent corneal ulceration. Surgical treatment will be required to short the eyelid margin along with stabilisation of the lateral edge of the eyelids. The ophthalmologist will choose the technique depends on the severity of the case.



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What complications can happen after eyelid surgery?

- Self-trauma after removing the buster collar before ophthalmologist advice.
- Infection and break down of the wounds.

What is the post operative care after any type of eyelid surgery?

Patients will be discharged with eye drops and oral medication to control secondary infection, ocular pain, tear deficit and inflammation along with a buster collar to avoid self-trauma. An initial recheck will be 7-10 days after surgery followed by a second or third recheck depending on the case progress.

If the patient suffers from other ocular pathology such as dry eye, long term medication may be required to reduce corneal scarring and treat the superficial corneal inflammation.

In some patients that require eyelid surgery, multiple surgical procedures are often needed for optimal correction of the eyelids. In these cases, further surgeries can be addressed following complete healing of the initial procedure and discussed with you in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact Eye Vet should you have any concerns following treatment.