



EYE INFLAMMATION

Why is My Pet's Eye Red?

A "red eye" is usually inflamed. Eye inflammation can be the result of many different abnormalities. The eye may be inflamed on the outside or on the inside (or a combination of both).

- Outside: inflammation of the superficial eye (conjunctivitis [the white of the eye], superficial keratitis [the clear window or cornea], or blepharitis [the eyelids]).
- Inside: inner eye diseases such as anterior uveitis (inflammation of the iris and associated structures), glaucoma (increased internal pressure), or hemorrhage into the eye. Luxated or cataract lenses can lead to glaucoma or anterior uveitis.

Some possible causes of the inflamed eye may include: many different local and systemic infectious or inflammatory diseases, suppressed immune system, bleeding abnormalities, high blood pressure, tumors, and trauma. Many problems can start in one eye and quickly involve the other eye.

How Do We Know What Caused It?

The history and physical examination can sometimes tell us what the specific cause is. However, because eye diseases can be the result of many different conditions a variety of tests may be needed. Some of the tests might include: Tonometry (to determine the intraocular pressure); Ocular ultrasonography (to help define the extent and nature of intraocular disease or identify an intraocular tumor); Thoracic radiographs (if intraocular neoplasia is a possibility); Abdominal radiography and ultrasonography (may aid in ruling out infectious or neoplastic causes); Bacterial culture and sensitivity test of the eye discharge; Schirmer tear test for tear production; Cytologic examination of affected tissue (i.e., lid, conjunctiva, or cornea

or of the eye discharge); In cats, an immunofluorescent antibody test of conjunctival or corneal scraping for feline herpes virus and chlamydia diagnosis; Fluorescein stain test for corneal ulcers and lacerations; and biopsy of abnormal tissue.

How Can We Treat It?

Naturally the treatment will vary according to the cause and the resulting eye condition. Some aspects of eye treatment may include:

- Medications may be indicated and frequent reexaminations are often needed to ensure a proper response.
- Some eye diseases may require surgery.
- Some eye diseases may require treatment of the whole pet, not just the eye (i.e. Valley Fever, Distemper, and Ehrlichia).
- If your pet wants to rub its eye, an Elizabethan collar will help to protect the eye.
- Bright light is painful to your pet's eye, so keep it indoors until the eye is normal.

Special Instructions: _____

Your next appointment is _____

Call Us If...

- Your pet's eye(s) appears to be getting worse.
- You notice any degradation in your pet's general health.
- You have trouble giving the prescribed medicine.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!