Dog Eyelid Inflammation
Info from a Dermatologist

www.csspets.com
Blepharitis

• Inflammation of the eyelid (skin, muscle, connective tissue, glands)

• Usually also includes redness of conjunctiva
Blepharitis-Eyelid inflammation

**How it happens**

- Conjunctiva rich in mast cells & vessels

- Bacterial lipases:
  1. Alter meibomian lipids which plug the glands
  2. Produce irritating fatty acids
  3. Destabilize tear film
What you see in your dog!

• Eye discharge: clear, mucoid, or mucous with pus
• Excess blinking
• Itch, rubbing the eyes
• Hair loss
• Crust, scale
• Eyelid redness, swelling, thickening
• Loss of pigment along skin or hair
Blepharitis-Eyelid inflammation

What you see in your dog!

- Swollen, cream colored meibomian glands with prominent openings
- Papules and pustules
- Single or multiple red nodules along eyelids
- Concurrent redness of conjunctiva or keratitis (corneal inflammation)
Blepharitis- Eyelid Inflammation

**Congenital: “Born that way”**

- Entropion (Eyelid rolling inward)
- Congenital eyelid abnormalities
- Trichiasis - *hair growing in wrong direction* (nasal fold hair growing in direction of eye)
- Distichia - *eyelashes or hair growing inward & touching eyeball, causing irritation and pain or itch*
- Lagophthalmos - *eyelid doesn’t close properly, leads to “Dry eye”*
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation

**Cancer**

**Canine:**
- Adenomas
- Adenocarcinomas
- Melanomas
- Cutaneous lymphoma
- Histiocytomas
- Basal cell tumors
- Mast cell tumor

**Cats:**
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Mast cell tumor
- Basal cell tumors
- Fibrosarcomas
- Apocrine hydrocystomas
Blepharitis-Eyelid inflammation

Cancer, Tumors
Blepharitis-Eyelid inflammation

Other Causes

Trauma; itch, irritating chemicals, cuts, foreign bodies (grass awns, cat claws!), etc.
Blepharitis - Eyelid inflammation

Other Causes

- Zinc Responsive Dermatosis
- Dermatomyositis
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**Autoimmune Skin Disease**

Many types of auto-immune diseases can affect eyelids…
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation

Autoimmune Skin Disease

Juvenile cellulitis aka “Puppy Strangles

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Autoimmune Skin Disease

- Erythema multiforme
- Drug rxn

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Metabolic Skin Disease

- Hepatocutaneous syndrome (skin disease linked to liver disease)
- AKA- Necrolytic Migratory Erythema (NME)
- AKA- Superficial Necrolytic dermatitis (SND)
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation

Miscellaneous causes

Demodex mites invade eyelid glands – causes granulomatous blepharitis
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation

Miscellaneous causes

- *Herpes Virus*: FHV-1 in cats
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**Miscellaneous causes**

- *Fungi*! Ringworm (Tinea, Dermatophyte), aspergillus, other

[Image of dog's skin with lesions]
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation

**Miscellaneous causes**

- **Dry eye** — *irritation due to lack of tears/moisture*
- **Eye drops**: can cause contact irritant/allergy
  - Often contain neomycin but other topical eye drops can cause allergic reaction or irritation
Blepharitis - Eye Inflammation

Tests performed

- Schirmer tear test (measures tear production)
- Fluorescein stain (checks for ulcer of cornea)
- Conjunctival swab to look for herpes virus
- Topical anesthetic for evaluation of foreign body *(typically one eye only)*
- Biopsy if concerned about tumor or cancer
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation
Due to allergies
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation
Due to allergies with Staph infection
Blepharitis-Eyelid Inflammation
Treatment

- Eye wash with commercial eye wash product such as Lid & Lash
- Topical eye medicine- antibacterial &/or anti-inflammatory ointment (products labeled for use in the eye ONLY)
- Elizabethan collar (“Lampshade” to protect dog or cat from traumatizing the eyes
- Identify and treat the underlying cause to prevent recurrence