

# **ENTROPION**

## **WHAT IS ENTROPION?**

Entropion is an abnormal “rolling-in” of the eyelid. This rolling-in causes the hairs of the eyelid to rub on the cornea (the clear surface of the eye).

## **WHAT CAUSES ENTROPION?**

Entropion is most commonly due to an inherited faulty eyelid conformation. Occasionally, entropion results from an eyelid spasm due to some other painful eye condition.

## **WHAT BREEDS ARE COMMONLY AFFECTED?**

Entropion is commonly seen in breeds such as the Bulldog, Bloodhound, Chow Chow, Shar Pei, Rottweiler, and Retrievers. These breeds are all prone to entropion, although any breed may be affected.

## **HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY DOG HAS ENTROPION?**

Most owners notice that the affected eye is partially held shut and has excessive tearing. Both eyes are usually affected simultaneously (entropion can occur in the upper or lower eyelids, or in both upper and lower at the same time). Inherited entropion usually affects dogs under 1 year of age.

## **HOW IS ENTROPION DIAGNOSED?**

A thorough examination of the eye is performed to make certain that there are no other painful eye conditions present that are causing an eyelid spasm. If none are found, a diagnosis of inherited entropion is made.

## **HOW IS ENTROPION TREATED?**

Surgery is required to correct entropion. This involves removal of a small portion of skin to tighten the eyelid. Temporary eyelid tacking may be used in very young dogs. Surgical correction is often delayed until the dog has a more mature head conformation at 4-6 months of age. If the entropion is left uncorrected, the eyelid hairs will continue to rub on the surface of the eye, causing pain, corneal ulcers, pigmentation, and scarring which can result in vision loss.

## **WILL THE ENTROPION RECUR AFTER SURGERY?**

In most cases, no. Some breeds, however, such as the Shar Pei and Chow Chow, may have severe and complex entropion that requires several corrective surgeries.

## **HOW WILL MY DOG LOOK AFTER SURGERY?**

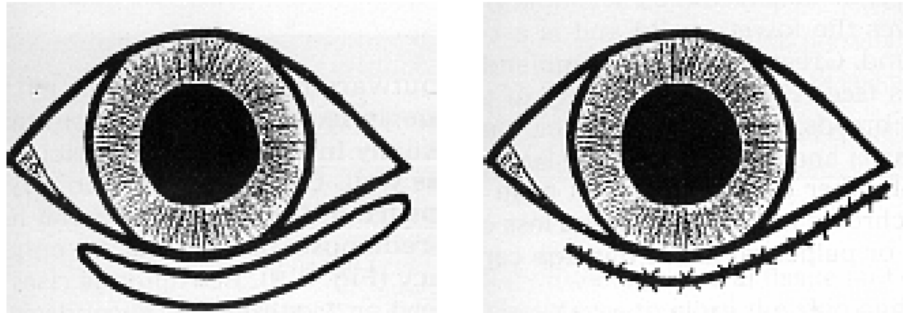
Initially, after surgery, the eyelids will look “over-corrected” (or “rolled-out”) due to swelling. This is normal and will subside over the next week or so. You may notice some bloody +/- or blood tinged discharge from the eye for a few days. This can be gently cleaned away with a kleenex. The stitches in the eyelids are dissolvable and will fall out on their own (this can take up to a month). It is important that your dog wears the head

collar AT ALL TIMES for at least a week to prevent him/her from rubbing at the eyes and potentially doing damage (which may require more surgery to correct!)

**WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO AT HOME?**

- When using eye drops, be sure to hold the lids open so the medication is placed directly onto the eye.
- Keep the head collar on at all times, even at night.
- Wipe away any discharge from the eye with a clean, moist Kleenex or face cloth.
- Keep your pet quiet.
- Book the recheck appointments as requested by the doctor. It is important to monitor your pet to ensure proper healing.

**DIAGRAM SHOWING HOW ENTROPION IS CORRECTED**



The diagram on the left is showing the portion of skin that is removed during surgery. This diagram is an example of how surgery is done on the lower lid. The same procedure is used for entropion of the upper lid.