

Cherry Eye In Dogs

What is Cherry Eye?

Cherry eye is a common issue that mainly affects certain dog breeds and, in rare cases, can also show up in cats. Unlike us, pets have three eyelids instead of two. Cherry eye happens when the tear gland in the third eyelid becomes swollen and red, creating a pink bulge that partially covers the eye. While there's no solid evidence that it causes discomfort, these glands are really important for keeping your pet's eyes healthy, so getting it treated promptly is key!



What are the Symptoms of Cherry Eye?

When the tear gland swells, you'll notice a small pink bump appearing from the corner of your pet's eye, closest to their nose. It's not hard to spot, and that's often the first sign that something's off.

Is Cherry Eye Painful for My Dog or Cat?



Although it might look a bit alarming, cherry eye usually isn't painful for dogs or cats—unless it's left untreated and complications arise. Most pets don't seem to mind it, but it's still important to address the issue quickly.

What Causes Cherry Eye and Is My Pet Likely to Get It?

Cherry eye often has a genetic component, so some breeds are more prone to it. Pets under two years old are most commonly affected. Breeds like English Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Shih Tzus, West Highland White Terriers, Pugs, Bloodhounds, and Boston Terriers are frequently affected. Cats can also develop cherry eye, typically before they hit the two-year mark. Interestingly, some pet owners have noticed that cherry eye can pop up suddenly when their pet gets overexcited, scared, or shocked.

How is Cherry Eye Treated?

There are a few ways to treat cherry eye. Some people suggest gently massaging the affected eye to help reposition the swollen gland, and occasionally it might go back to normal on its own with some medication and steroids. However, most pets will need surgery to properly fix it. In the past, vets often removed the gland, but that could lead to dry eye or even blindness. Now, the preferred approach is to surgically place the gland back in its proper position. While there are different techniques available, unfortunately, it doesn't always prevent the issue from coming back.



Can Cherry Eye Reoccur?

A lot of dogs that are treated for cherry eye may experience a recurrence of the condition. If that happens, the same treatment options can be explored again. It's also worth noting that dogs with cherry eye should not be bred.