

# ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

## Eye Problems in Dogs

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

There are five common eye problems in dogs that can be serious enough to cause loss of sight. They are cataracts, dry eye, glaucoma, entropion, and ulcers.

Cataracts are a white discoloration of the lens that, if severe enough, can cause loss of sight. Cataracts can be due to diabetes or can be a hereditary trait. Surgery to remove the lens can allow the pet to see again.

Dry eye is caused by decreased production of the watery part of tears. These dogs often produce large amounts of mucus for their eyes, but it is thick and does not protect the cornea. Eventually, the eye becomes so scarred the pet goes blind. To prevent pain and blindness, you must treat the eyes daily with a medicated ointment daily for the life of your pet.

Glaucoma is a disease where the amount of fluid in the eye increases and the increased pressure inside the eye damages the delicate retina. The eye can look red and is a very painful. This condition often leads to blindness and loss of the eye. It takes emergency treatment to keep a dog with glaucoma from losing his sight.

Entropion means the eyelids are rolled inward. Because of this, the hair touches the eye and causes irritation and scarring. This problem can be treated with surgery and may lead to blindness if the problem is not controlled.

A corneal ulcer can be caused by a scratch to the eye. If left untreated, it can become infected and lead to blindness or loss of an eye. Quick treatment with antibiotic ointments is needed. Ulcers can occur in any breed, but Boxers are particularly effected and often have more problems with healing.

Early detection and fast treatment are the key- never let an eye problem go on for days. All puppies need to be examined for birth defects. All adult dogs need yearly examinations to check for early signs of cataracts, glaucoma or dry eye.

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Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns concerning your dog's eyes at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾