



# Animal Eye Clinic

## of Waterloo Region

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## **EYELID DISORDERS**

### **ECTROPION**

#### **What is ectropion?**

Ectropion is the outward rolling of the eyelids which results in the conjunctiva being exposed. In most cases the lower eyelids are affected, either in one or both eyes.

#### **What causes ectropion?**

Ectropion can be caused by:

- marked loss of weight or muscle mass,
- injury which leads to scarring of the eyelids,
- over-correction of entropion,
- chronic inflammation,
- muscle fatigue.

Certain breeds are predisposed to ectropion, including:

Basset Hound	Mastiff
Bulldog	Newfoundland
Bull Terrier	Saint Bernard
Cocker Spaniel (American or English)	

#### **What will I see if my dog has ectropion?**

Signs and symptoms include: chronic redness of the lower conjunctiva, mucoid discharge from the eye, and visible outward rolling of the lower lids.

#### **How is ectropion treated?**

Surgical correction of the entropion is recommended in most cases. The eyelids will be shortened and reshaped under general anesthesia.

Medical treatments include the prescription of lubricating drops or ointment. This can help to reduce corneal drying but will not fix the cause of the problem.

### **ENTROPION**

#### **What is entropion?**

Entropion is the abnormal inward rolling of the eyelids. This may affect both the upper and the lower lids, but is more common in the lower lids. The inward rolling causes irritation to the cornea and may lead to corneal ulcers and/or impairment of vision.

### **What causes entropion?**

Most commonly entropion is seen as an inherited abnormality in eyelid conformation. The most commonly affected breeds include:

Airedale Terrier	Golden Retriever	Rhodesian Ridgeback
Am. Staffordshire Terrier	Great Dane	Rottweiler
Bernese Mountain Dog	Irish Setter	Saint Bernard
Bichon Frise	Labrador Retriever	Shar Pei
Bulldog	Lhasa Apso	Shih Tzu
Bull Terrier	Newfoundland	Siberian Husky
Cavalier King Charles Span.	Old English Sheepdog	Viszla
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Pekingese	Weimaraner
Chow Chow	Pomeranian	Yorkshire Terrier
Dalmation	Poodle	
Doberman Pinscher	Pug	

Occasionally entropion can be caused by an eyelid spasm as the result of some other painful eye condition.

### **What will I see if my dog has entropion?**

Usually it is first noticed that the affected eye is being held partially shut and is tearing excessively. Owners may also notice sensitivity to light, and that their pet is rubbing their eyes. Usually both eyes are affected, and this problem is usually noticed before one year of age.

### **How is entropion treated?**

Diagnosis of entropion will be made upon thorough examination of the eye to be sure of the cause. In cases of inherited entropion, surgical correction is required. Once the animal has finished growing, a surgical reconstruction of the lid is performed under general anaesthetic. Depending on the extent of the entropion, a number of different methods may be employed. In very young dogs, the ophthalmologist may temporarily tack the eyelids with a suture to prevent them from damaging the cornea until surgery can be performed.

In the case of spastic entropion due to a painful eye condition, treatment of the painful condition will be employed. In most cases a soft contact lens will be placed on the eye to keep the animal comfortable. Once the pain subsides, the entropion generally corrects itself.