



Entropion

What is entropion?

Entropion is a condition where the eyelids roll inward, causing the lashes to rub against the surface of the eye. This can lead to irritation, pain, and potential damage to the cornea if not treated. The condition most commonly affects the lower eyelids but can also affect the upper eyelids.

What causes entropion?

- **Conformation:** Dogs with loose skin around the eyes, such as the larger breeds, are more susceptible. Certain dog breeds, such as Bulldogs, Pugs, and Rottweilers, are more prone to entropion due to the structure of their skulls.
- **Spastic entropion:** Painful eye conditions such as corneal ulceration can cause the eyelids to spasm which can result in the eyelids rolling inwards.
- **Age:** In some older dogs, the facial muscles may weaken, leading to entropion.



What are the signs of entropion?

Entropion is more common in younger dogs. The eye will be squinting and blinking excessively, with watery discharge. The cornea may be red or scarred, or there may be ulceration present.

How is entropion diagnosed?

Your vet or veterinary ophthalmologist will be able to assess the position of the eyelids and damage to the cornea. Local anaesthetic will be applied to observe the effect it makes.

What is the treatment for entropion?

In young puppies and kittens **temporary tacking sutures** may be required while they are still growing. If operated on permanently at too young an age, it would be easy to over or under correct the permanent change that is needed.

In older animals, **permanent surgical correction** is usually required. There are a number of techniques including the Celsus-Hotz procedure, wedge-resection for lid shortening or a Stades procedure. The procedure performed will depend on the specific case.

Prognosis

With proper surgical treatment, the prognosis for dogs with entropion is generally very good. Most dogs recover fully and experience significant relief from the symptoms of the condition. Occasionally eyelid surgery needs to be repeated to get the most perfect result possible as often these dogs heads are changing as they are growing and maturing.

