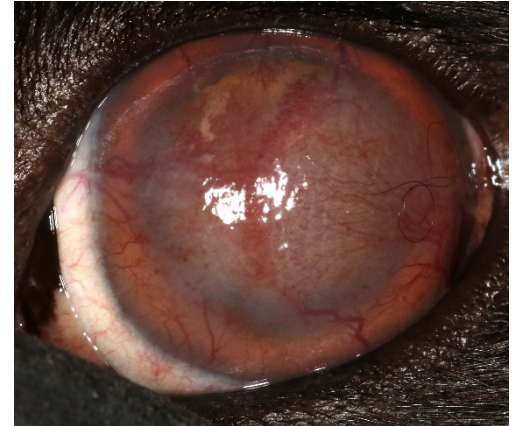




Pannus in Dogs

What is Pannus?

Pannus, also known as **chronic superficial keratitis**, is an immune-mediated eye condition in dogs where the cornea (the clear, front part of the eye) of both eyes becomes inflamed and develops abnormal opacity. This appears as a vascular (blood vessel-rich) lesion that starts at the outer edge of the corneas. Pannus is a progressive condition, which means that if left untreated, the opacity spreads across the cornea, obstructing vision. Although it typically doesn't cause pain, it is important to catch pannus early and begin treatment to slow or stop its progression.



Causes of Pannus

Pannus is primarily an **immune-mediated condition**, meaning that the dog's immune system mistakenly targets and attacks the cornea. The exact cause of pannus is not fully understood, but several factors can contribute to the development of the disease. There is a genetic predisposition, with certain breeds more commonly affected, including German Shepherds, Greyhounds, Collies and others. Pannus is often aggravated by sunlight, particularly ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Treatment for Pannus

Although pannus cannot be cured, the condition is manageable with prompt and ongoing treatment. The goal of treatment is to reduce inflammation, slow the progression of the disease, and preserve vision.

- **Medications**

Eye drops are the main treatment used. A topical immunosuppressive ointment is typically used. Sometimes steroid eye drops are used in addition in the shortterm to control a flare up.

- **Sun Protection** can be considered but it is difficult to reduce UV exposure. Provide shade and consider providing UV protectant eyewear.
- **Surgical implantation of immunosuppressant medication** is occasionally recommended particularly when it is challenging to apply daily medications to the eyes. This surgery could be repeated annually.
- **Monitoring:** Regular visits to the veterinarian for eye exams are crucial to assess the progression of the condition and adjust the treatment plan as needed.

Prognosis

The prognosis for dogs with pannus varies based on the severity of the condition and how early it is diagnosed. If treated early and consistently, most dogs can **manage pannus successfully** and maintain good vision. In cases where the condition is severe or left untreated, vision loss can occur, and complications such as corneal ulcers or scarring may develop. With proper treatment, most dogs can lead a normal, comfortable life, but **lifelong management** is often required to prevent the condition from worsening.

