

Dry Eye (KCS)

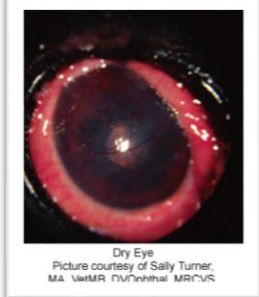


WHAT IS DRY EYE?

Dry eye – or Keratoconjunctivitis sicca- meaning inflammation of the cornea and surrounding tissues as a result of **drying**.

There are multiple reasons why dry eye may occur – these conditions result in lack of tear production resulting in dry eye:

- **Immune mediated** – meaning the immune system is reacting inappropriately to the tear producing glands
- **Systemic Disease** – Canine Distemper/ Feline Herpesvirus – these are uncommon as these are vaccinated against.
- **Medications** – long term use of some antibiotics can occasionally result in dry eye.
- **Hypothyroidism**



CLINICAL SIGNS

Dogs and cats will have **red, painful** eyes. They will often squint and blink frequently and have a thick mucousy discharge over their eyes.

Often affected animals will develop **corneal ulcers** as a result of poor tear production protecting the cornea



Diagnosis is confirmed through a **Schirmer Tear test** – whereby a strip is placed on the surface of the eye and the amount of tears produced over a certain time is measured.

Certain breeds are more likely to develop KCS. These breeds include:

American cocker spaniel
Bloodhound
Boston terrier
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
English bulldog
English springer spaniel
Lhasa apso
Miniature schnauzer
Pekingese
Pug
Samoyed
Shih tzu
West highland white terrier

TREATMENT

Treatment is aimed at **stimulating tear production** and **replacing tears** as well as treating any existing infection/ulceration. This is via ointment/drops placed topically on the eye as prescribed by the veterinarian.