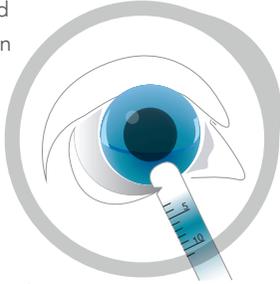


# HOW IS 'DRY EYE' DIAGNOSED?

- Clinical signs can vary and symptoms can be mild to severe depending on the stage of the disease
- Both eyes are commonly affected
- If your vet suspects DRY EYE then they will perform a test call the **Schirmer Tear Test** - this measures the amount of tears the eye is producing. A suboptimal result indicates DRY EYE and requires treatment
- This test involves putting little strips of paper inside your dog's lower eyelid and is usually tolerated well by most patients



Schirmer Tear Test

# HOW IS 'DRY EYE' TREATED?

Your vet will prescribe eye drops

**Ciclosporin eye ointment** - usually applied twice daily to the eye(s). This essential medication prevents the immune system attacking the lacrimal tissue and aims to reverse the condition. If successful, treatment with this drug is lifelong - if the drug is stopped the immune system will begin to destroy the lacrimal tissue again.

**Tear replacement eye drops** - these aim to keep the eye lubricated and prevent it drying out. A dry eye is irritating and painful and can lead to corneal damage. Tear replacements are used frequently initially and then may be tapered down or stopped, if the tear gland function is regained with ciclosporin drops.

If the disease is caught too late then ciclosporin may not be effective in reversing the change induced in the lacrimal tissue - at this point tear replacers may become the only way to medically help a dry eye.

**Antibiotic eye drops** - may be used if secondary bacterial infection is present.

**Eye cleaners** - removal of the build-up of crust and discharge that is frequently seen in these patients is beneficial. Your dog will be more comfortable and it will aid application of medicated eye drops.



## REMEMBER

**TREATMENT IS LIFELONG!**  
DO NOT STOP GIVING MEDICATIONS UNLESS YOUR VET INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO SO!



DEALING WITH  
**DRY EYE**

Use medicines responsibly. [www.noah.co.uk/responsible](http://www.noah.co.uk/responsible). Further information is available on request from TVM UK, Slade Farm, Building B, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 3JA. 0800 038 5868. [help@tvm-uk.com](mailto:help@tvm-uk.com). [tvm-uk.com](http://tvm-uk.com).

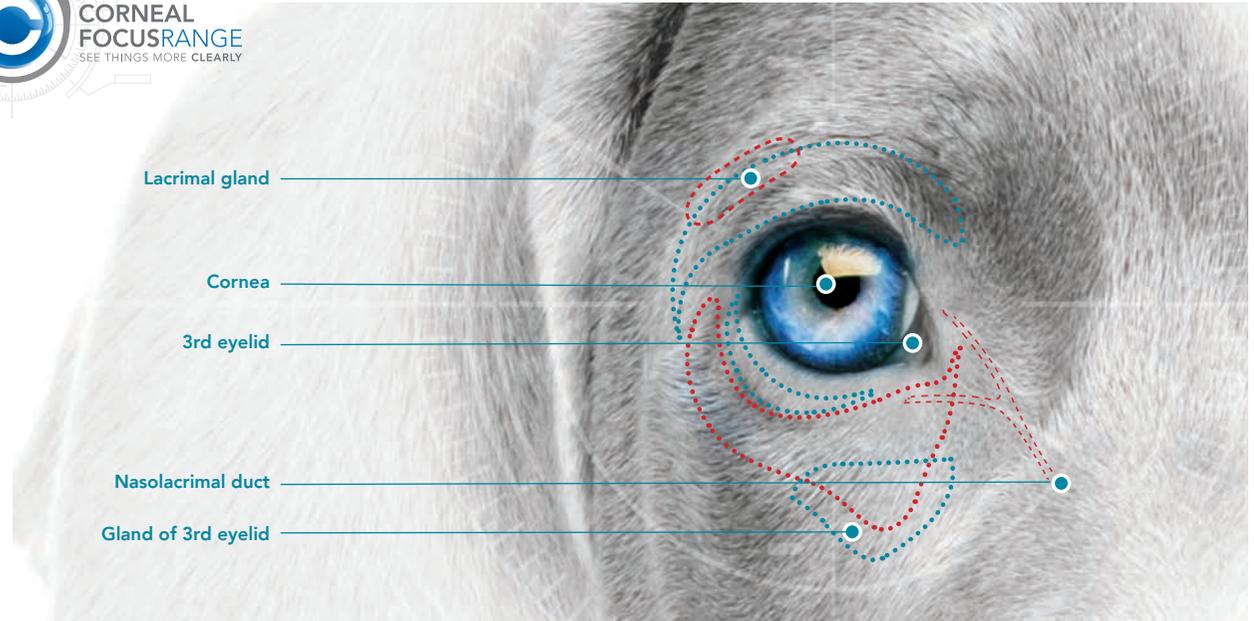
1. Pierce V & Williams D, 2006, Determination of Schirmer Tear Test values in 1000 dogs. BSAVA Abstract 2006

CFR-006-DL

# DRY EYE AFFECTS 1 IN 22 DOGS IN THE UK<sup>1</sup>

COMMONLY AFFECTED BREEDS INCLUDE:

Pug  
Lhasa Apso  
English Bulldog  
West Highland White Terrier  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel  
English Cocker Spaniel  
English Springer Spaniel  
Miniature Schnauzer  
Toy Poodle  
Pekinese  
Shih Tzu



## WHAT IS DRY EYE AND WHAT CAUSES IT?

'DRY EYE' or Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) is a painful and potentially blinding condition for many dogs:

1. Destruction of lacrimal (tear gland) tissue by the immune system\*
2. Leads to reduced or absent tear function
3. Resulting in inflammation and build up of sticky discharge in and around the eye, recurrent infections and corneal damage (ulceration, pigmentation)



Recurrent inflammation (conjunctivitis)



Sticky discharge and recurrent infection



Pigment over the cornea will obstruct vision – once occurs it is usually permanent



Corneal ulceration – very painful and can lead to rupture of the eye and blindness. In severe cases the eye may need to be removed

## DRY EYE CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS IF UNTREATED

\*there are other causes of KCS but this is by far the most common.