

WHAT IS 'BRACHYCEPHALIC OCULAR SYNDROME'?

Brachycephalic breeds are those with short noses and flat faces.

Including dogs such as;

- Pugs
- French Bulldogs
- Shih Tzus
- Boston Terriers
- English Bulldogs
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Boxers

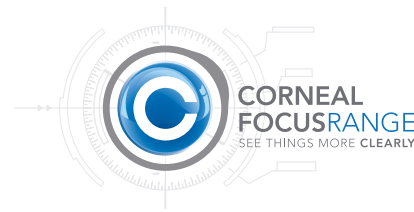
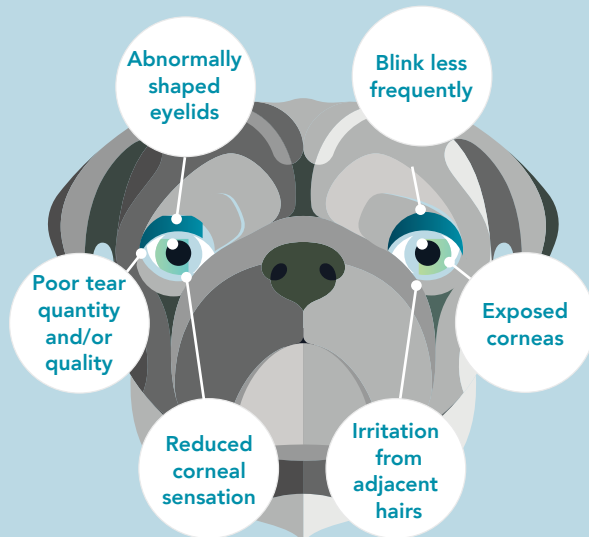
And cats such as;

- Persians
- Exotic/British Shorthairs

Brachycephalic breeds are more likely to suffer from eye problems and may also have several issues at the same time, hence the term 'brachycephalic ocular syndrome'.

Awareness and recognition of the common eye problems that may develop, along with advice from your vet, will ensure your pet's eyes remain as healthy as possible.

WHY ARE BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS SO PRONE TO EYE PROBLEMS?



Contact your vet if you notice any of the below signs of an eye problem:

- Eye irritation
- Watery eye
- Blinking/squinting excessively
- Redness
- Cloudy eye
- Sticky or crusty discharge

Contact your vet for further advice

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1. O'Neill, et al (2021), Keratoconjunctivitis sicca in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK: an epidemiological study. J Small Anim Pract. 2. O'Neill, Dan G., et al. "Corneal ulcerative disease in dogs under primary veterinary care in England: epidemiology and clinical management." Canine genetics and epidemiology 4 (2017): 1-12

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BRACHYCEPHALIC OCULAR SYNDROME

INFORMATION FOR PET OWNERS

COMMON EYE PROBLEMS

Brachycephalic breeds have protruding eyes that are more exposed to the elements, which can lead to dryness, damage and irritation.

CORNEAL ULCERATION

- Corneal ulceration, where the surface of the eye is wounded, is very common.
- Signs include; irritation, blinking/squinting, redness, cloudy and/or watery eye.
- Corneal ulcers are very painful and can quickly deepen (known as 'melting'), which can cause permanent blindness or even loss of the eye.
- **Brachycephalic breeds are at an increased risk of corneal melting.**

DRY EYES

- Dry eye (also known as keratoconjunctivitis sicca or 'KCS') occurs when there is an insufficient and/or a poor-quality tear film.
- In the initial stages of the disease, your pet may experience sore, irritated eyes with sticky or crusty discharge.
- Corneal ulcers and chronic corneal changes, such as pigmentation, may develop and can affect vision if left untreated.

TEAR OVERFLOW AND STAINING

- Due to the flat-face and abnormally shaped eyelids, tears may not drain effectively and may overflow onto the face.
- Tears contain porphyrin pigments that turn brown on the coat, resulting in unsightly 'tear staining'.



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT LOTS CAN BE DONE TO HELP IMPROVE EYE HEALTH



REGULAR VET EXAMINATIONS

- It is recommended that your pet's eyes are checked at least every 12 months in at-risk breeds¹ (such as brachycephalic pets).
- These will help to identify any anatomical problems, test tear production and look for any active problems (e.g., ulcers, infection, inflammation).



KEEP EYES CLEAN

- Remove any debris, dirt or discharge that builds up around your pet's eyes (or in the skin folds that sit nearby) to keep them clean.
- Performing this as part of your pet's daily hygiene routine provides you with an opportunity to identify any changes with your pet's eyes.
- It is important to use a cleaner that is safe to use in and around the eye. e.g. **Ocryl®**.

Brachycephalic breeds are:

11.7x
more likely

to suffer from corneal ulcers than other breeds.²

3.63x
more likely

to develop dry eye than other dog breeds.¹



USE LUBRICATION

- It is recommended to use eye lubrication as part of your pet's daily routine.
- This is also a good way to get your pet used to eye drops, as many brachycephalic pets will, unfortunately, develop eye problems during their lifetime.
- Lubrication is especially important if your pet is admitted to hospital, as sedative and anaesthetic drugs can lower tear production before and during a procedure, and even for several days afterwards!

PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR VET'S TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS CAREFULLY

Speak to them first if you are having difficulty as they may be able to offer an alternative solution