

Ectopic cilia



Dog with ectopic cilia

What are ectopic cilia?

Ectopic cilia are abnormal hairs, which emerge through the inside of the eyelid, causing irritation and in some cases ulceration of the surface of the eye. The condition usually affects young dogs.

Which signs may indicate presence of ectopic cilia?

Clinical signs associated with disease, usually include non-healing ulcers and chronic irritation of the eye.

Can both eyes be affected?

Yes and ectopic cilia are commonly associated with the presence of distichia (for further information please see the information sheet on distichiasis).

Are any breeds predisposed?

Yes, ectopic cilia are commonly seen in Flat-Coated Retrievers, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Boxer, English Bulldog, Poodle and Jack Russell Terrier. However any dog breed may be affected.

What treatment options do I have?

Treatment options are limited to surgical removal of the root of the abnormal hair. Mere plucking of the ectopic cilia is not a permanent solution and may exacerbate the condition if the hair is torn off at the base.



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Close up of ctopic cilia

What happens if I do nothing?

If ectopic cilia are not removed, severe damage to the ocular surface (cornea) may ensue, resulting in deterioration of vision and in some cases loss of the eye.

Want to know more?

If you have any further questions regarding this or any other condition feel free to ask us during the consultation, or contact us:

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