

9901 South U.S. Hwy 17-92
Maitland, FL 32751
407-629-0044 *Ext. 1*
407-629-0602 *Fax*

11011 Lake Underhill Rd
Orlando, FL 32825
407-629-0044 *Ext. 1*

AnimalEyeGroup.com



Daniel R. Priehs, D.V.M.
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

Heidi M. Denis, D.V.M.
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

Melanie Church, D.V.M.
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

CHERRY EYE

Dogs and cats have an extra eyelid, called the third eyelid. This third eyelid has a gland that produces approximately 1/3 of the tear production and normally cannot be seen. In cherry eye, this gland has popped up out of normal position and is visible. Because the gland is not in its normal position, it usually becomes red, irritated, and larger.

If your pet has cherry eye, signs you will see include a red mass in the corner of the eye and discharge. The cherry eye can sometimes come and go, and both eyes can be affected. Breeds that commonly have cherry eye include Boston Terriers, Cocker Spaniels and Bulldogs. Cherry eye is diagnosed during the course of a complete ophthalmic examination.

The recommended treatment of cherry eye is surgical replacement of the gland. Following surgery, your pet will usually wear a protective E-collar. Occasionally, a cherry eye will recur following surgery, this is common in English Bulldogs and giant breeds like Mastiffs. If there is recurrence, a second surgery is performed which typically combines the original technique with a second procedure.

Removal of the gland is not recommended, because this gland contributes to the normal tears. If the gland is removed, this may place your pet at greater risk of a tear deficiency, which can require lifelong medication. However, replacement of the gland does not guarantee that your pet will not develop tear deficiency in the future. If surgery is not done and the gland is left in the abnormal position it causes chronic eye irritation and discharge.

Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions or concerns. 407-629-0044 ext. 1