

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.

---

## CHRONIC SUPERFICIAL KERATITIS (Pannus)

Chronic superficial keratitis (Pannus) is a progressive, inflammatory and potentially blinding disease of the cornea. It is also known as German Shepherd Pannus because that is the most commonly affected breed. However, chronic superficial keratitis can affect any breed.

Chronic superficial keratitis is a bilateral (both eyes) disease, in which pigment and blood vessels can cover the cornea. It starts out laterally and slowly progresses over the cornea. Eventually, the entire cornea may become vascularized, pigmented or scarred. In dogs with Atypical Pannus, the third eyelid is also involved and becomes inflamed. The exact cause of the disease has not been established, however, it appears that this condition may be immune-related.

Several factors may influence the disease process. Ultraviolet light, higher altitudes and age at onset of the disease all play a significant role in the disease process. Both the incidence and severity of pannus increase in higher altitudes. Dogs affected from lower elevations, such as those in the Southeastern United States, tend to respond more favorably and with less intensive topical corticosteroid +/- immune-modulating therapy than those with the disease living in higher elevations. In addition, German Shepherds affected at a fairly young age; 1-5 years, the condition is usually rapidly progressive and severe. With those animals affected later in life, the lesions appear to be less severe and progress more slowly.

Unfortunately, chronic superficial keratitis cannot be cured, but it can be controlled with the proper medications. Topical corticosteroids and Cyclosporine are used to prevent the progression of pigment on the cornea. More severe cases may need oral therapy. Life-long medical therapy is needed to keep pannus under control and keep your pets vision healthy.