



Entropion



What is Entropion?

Entropion is a common potentially painful condition where one or more eyelids roll inward, causing hair and eyelashes to rub against the sensitive corneal surface. Some pets may have other concurrent abnormalities involving the skin around the eyes e.g. marked nasal folds or “heavy brows”, which can exacerbate the condition.

If left untreated, entropion can lead to painful corneal ulcers, scarring, and even permanent vision loss.

What are the signs of entropion?

- **Inward rolling of the eyelid:** This may be marked or may be subtle, potentially only visible when your pet’s head is held in a certain position
- **Squinting or blinking:** The eye may appear smaller or held shut due to ocular pain.
- **Excessive tearing:** Watery or mucoid ocular discharge.
- **Redness:** Inflammation of the eye surface or conjunctiva.
- **Rubbing:** Pawing at the face or eyes due to irritation.

Who is at Risk?

While it can affect any breed and species, it can be hereditary and linked to facial structure:

- **Dog Breeds:** Shar Pei, Chow Chow, Bulldogs, Pugs, Labradors, Retrievers, Rottweilers, and Spaniels.
- **Cat Breeds:** Less common but seen in brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds like Persians, and larger breeds like the Maine Coon.
- **Other Causes:** It can also be caused by scarring from injuries or "spastic" responses to other eye pain. Cats who have lost weight recently may also be at risk of developing the condition.

Treatment Options

Treatment depends on your pet's age and the severity of the condition:

- **Younger pets (<14 weeks of age):** In young, growing dogs, temporary eyelid sutures can be used to correct the inward rolling and protect the eye until the facial structure matures. These are typically left in place for 4-6 weeks before being removed. Such a procedure may prevent the need for more extensive eyelid surgery in the future.
- **Adult pets:** Most mature patients require permanent corrective eyelid surgery to normalise the eyelid position. There are various surgical procedures available to achieve correction and the View Referrals team will help advise you on which is most appropriate for your pet. For all procedures, following re-alignment of the eyelid margin, fine skin sutures are placed, which will dissolve over the coming weeks.
- **Senior pets:** While corrective eyelid surgery remains our favoured approach at managing entropion in adults, in some senior patients where general anaesthetic concerns are present, then eyelid filler can be utilised to correct the entropion. The positive impact of the filler can reduce in time and as such, it may need to be repeated.

How Successful is corrective surgery?

The surgery that we perform is generally **very successful** at correcting the entropion. However, a small number of patients may require a follow up surgery in the future, depending on various factors (e.g. healing from first surgery, age at the time of the initial surgery and/or other complexities).

What to expect following surgery

- **Protective Collar:** An Elizabethan collar (cone) must be worn **24/7 for 10-14 days** following surgery to prevent rubbing the surgical site.
- **Sutures:** Unless you have been advised otherwise, your pet will have sutures that will dissolve without need for removal. It typically takes 3-6 weeks for the skin sutures to dissolve. A small number of pets develop skin inflammation (redness and swelling) as the sutures dissolve, but this is easily managed and does not impact the long-term success of the surgery.
- **Medication:** You will likely need to administer oral pain relief and possibly some eye drops to aid healing of the eyelids and any other ocular problems

being managed following the surgery.

- **Activity:** Restricted exercise is required for one to two weeks following the procedure, meaning shorter lead-only walks and no rough play.