

CONJUNCTIVITIS

The conjunctiva and cornea are subjected continuously to noxious environmental agents such as wind, dust and pollen, and infectious agents such as viruses, bacteria, and fungi. For these reasons, the conjunctival sac is usually non-sterile. There are efficient defence systems such as the tear film, the reticuloendothelial system, and the replacement of the conjunctival epithelium. Inflammation of the conjunctiva (conjunctivitis) may have either non-infectious or infectious causes, although often both are involved. Frequently, one factor, such as irritating hairs, dust, or a virus, causes the initial damage, which enables bacteria, fungi, or yeasts to penetrate and colonize the conjunctival sac.

Information obtained from :

Vetstream—widely used Vet Anatomy Website

ALWAYS CONTACT YOUR OWN VETERINARY SURGEON FOR
ADVICE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF YOUR BASSET HOUND

Information Leaflet Compiled and Supplied by

The Basset Hound Health Group

To keep up to date with all matters affecting Basset Hounds in your area, why not join your local Breed Club?
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The Basset Hound

Eye Conditions

This Information Leaflet has been produced to help you to understand The Basset Hound Eye

The diamond eye configuration.....Originally, this shape was produced by huntsmen to ensure that, if the hound's eye was caught in undergrowth, it did not rip but had some "give". There are very few breeds where this diamond or lozenge shape occurs and great care must be taken by breeders to ensure that *excessive skin/wrinkle* is not produced. The first two undernoted conditions, although rarely

ENTROPION

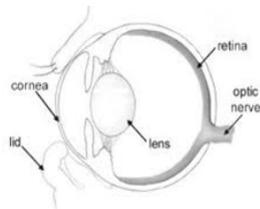
Conformational defects may result in an inward-rolling of the lower and/or upper lids. Head conformation and structure as well as weight and amount of skin wrinkle also play an important role in this condition.

Breeders must look to conformation that minimizes the likelihood of occurrence of lid deformations. Canine lower lid entropion may be secondary to chronic conjunctivitis which sometimes turns out to be allergic. Other irritating causes may lead to spastic entropion.

In the older Basset Hounds, and some other breeds, the skin of the forehead may become flaccid leading to upper lid entropion.

Whenever lid deformation leads to irritation, surgical correction is usually necessary.

Here, Entropion of the lower eye lid is seen to be irritating the cornea.



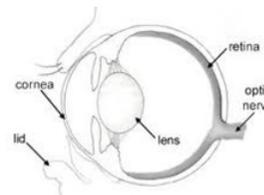
ECTROPION

This condition is an outward rolling of the eyelid and Breeds with loose skin the lower lid may droop thereby exposing conjunctiva, leading to chronic conjunctivitis.

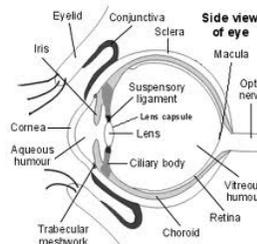
In the Basset Hound a small amount of "haw" is considered as part of the breed standard.

If chronic irritation is clinically noted simple surgical correction of the temporal lower lids is indicated.

Here, Ectropion of the lower lid show a distortion of the natural shape of the eye.



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CHERRY EYE

Hypertrophy/hyperplasia of the nictitans gland - Cherry Eye is a prolapse of the third eyelid gland. This is seen most commonly in younger dogs. It may present in one eye initially but the condition can become obvious in the other eye within a short period of time.

Cherry eye surgery is challenging in large breed dogs as these dogs often have a prolapsed third eyelid gland, and perhaps overly-wide third eyelids.

Prolapsed glands should be replaced surgically.

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca - KCS rarely but occasionally follows surgery. KCS is a lack of ability to produce tears resulting in a dry eye.

Here, the prolapsed gland of the third eyelid looks like a large red blister in the inner corner of the eye.

