

The Health Research Subcommittee of the Beagle Club of New South Wales Inc. would like to present the following article entitled "Cherry Eye in Beagles".

This article was written for us by Dr. Jeffrey S. Smith, B.VSc., FACVSc. Dr. Smith is a very respected eye specialist in the veterinary field. He has practices at South Strathfield and Crows Nest in New South Wales.

His practice is called THE EYE CLINIC FOR ANIMALS and his associates are Anna R. Deykin, BSc,BVMS and Cameron J. G. Whittaker, BVSc, DVCS

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## EYE CLINIC FOR ANIMALS

### CHERRY EYE IN BEAGLES

"Cherry Eye" is a descriptive term referring to protrusion of the gland of the third eyelid.

The gland is not held tightly enough in the depths of the third eyelid and pops up. Once trapped in a protruded position, the gland becomes swollen and cannot be pushed back into place without a surgical procedure.

In the prolapsed position, the gland will not function properly and up to 30% of tear volume can be lost. Furthermore, the windscreen-wiper action of the third eyelid fails and the corneal "window" is not kept clean. This leads to clouding of the cornea and vision loss.

Cherry eye in beagles is an inherited disorder. Mode of inheritance has not been determined.

Now there is still a notion that excision of the gland will solve the cherry eye problem. While it appears to solve the problem because the "cherry" is gone, this treatment is NOT recommended as over 50% of dogs treated in this way will go on to develop blinding dry eye syndrome in later years.

Managing dry eye syndrome is difficult, frustrating and expensive.

As beagle breeders, you must become aware of this outcome.

The recommended treatment of cherry eye is the surgical repositioning of the gland. This procedure is tricky but highly successful in skilled hands.

REMEMBER...DO NOT REMOVE THE GLAND. It is wrong and not an easy way out.

(signed) Jeff Smith  
Veterinary Eye Specialist

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