



By your veterinary ophthalmologist

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Eyelid tumors

Eyelid tumors are often benign growths that develop in middle-aged and older dogs and usually cause no serious problems when small in size. As the tumor enlarges, it can cause irritation of the cornea (clear front part of the eye) and conjunctiva (white part of the eye and inside of the eyelids) resulting in corneal ulcerations and chronic conjunctivitis. Surgical removal is then recommended.

The surgical procedure used most frequently for small tumors involves removing the tumor and applying cryotherapy (freezing probe) to the eyelid area where the tumor originated. The freezing procedure is quite effective at preventing local recurrence of the tumor and the procedure is performed under sedation and local eyelid block only BUT it only works for very small tumors. Larger tumors, which have invaded the entire thickness of the eyelid, require more involved procedures. These involve removing a wedge of the eyelid with the tumor and then suturing / reconstructing the eyelid back into place. Once removed, eyelid tumors may be submitted for biopsy.

It is recommended to act fast : the surgery will be faster , easier and the result better if the mass is still fairly small.



Small palpebral mass in a dog



Same eye just before surgery



Same eye just after surgical removal



Same eye 2 weeks after surgical removal