

Ophthalmology Snapshot

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History

A six-year old, female Pekingese was presented with tear staining syndrome. The dog had had wet face for years. She had never seen veterinarian. Lately epiphora seemed progressed.

Ophthalmic examinations revealed positive results of menace response, dazzle reflex, pupillary

light response and palpebral reflex. Fluorescein staining test was negative. STT 1 was comparable between both eyes (16 and 17 mm wetness of OD and OS, respectively). Tear staining was bilaterally observed. There was no evidence of scleral exposure (eye white).



Figure 1 Photograph of the Pekingese.
(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

Question

What is the major cause of epiphora?

Please turn to next page for the answer.

Answer

Prominent nasal skin fold



Figure 2 Photograph of the left eye of the Pekingese.
(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

Comments

Prominent nasal skin fold is a skin fold along the nose that is unusually prominent. It is quite common in brachycephalic breeds especially in Pekingese, Pug, English bulldogs and Boston terriers. Contact of hairs, from nasal folds, to ocular surface depends on prominence of folds and length of hairs. Irritation of hairs may result in consistent epiphora, corneal opacity and pigmentation (at the nasal region) or corneal erosion if severe. Therefore, prominent nasal fold should be assessed in puppies before they develop ocular surface abnormality in adult.

When irritated, owners should be advised for treatments. Most owners desire normal appearance of nasal folds on these dogs' face to remain "breed characteristics" (heavy over nose wrinkle and prominent nasal folds). Folds can be removed partially

or completely, just adequate for minimal irritation. Combination of craniofacial risk factors, such as macropalpebral fissure, lagophthalmos, prominent eye, or lower medial entropion, should also be examined before surgical excision of nasal folds is decided.

Reference

- Packer RM, Hendricks A and Burn CC, 2015. Impact of facial conformation on canine health: corneal ulceration. *PLoS One*. 10(5): 1-16.
- Maggs DJ, 2013. Cornea and sclera. In: *Slatter's fundamentals of veterinary ophthalmology*. 5th ed. Maggs DJ, Miller PE and Ofri R, Edi. St. Louis: Elsevier Saunders. p 184-219.