

Dry Eye
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
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DRY EYE IN THE DOG
KCS – Kerato-conjunctivitis sicca

What is it?

At the AVMC, we have mostly seen this condition in Cavaliers and Westies, although other breeds can suffer it. It is a condition in which tear production reduces or ceases in one or both eyes. It results in sore eyes (conjunctivitis), sometimes corneal ulceration and possibly a tenacious muco-purulent discharge coating the front of the eye, in extreme cases. Clearly, if left untreated, the eye may be lost.

Causes

It appears that this may be an expression of auto-immune (autoimmune) disease. This means that revaccination is clearly not advisable. It may also be caused iatrogenically, for example by the use of *Salazopyrine* (Sulphasalazine – Sulfasalazine) treatment for colitis.

Treatment

It is always advisable to commence frequent treatment with artificial tears, to prevent drying of the cornea. This can be done several times per day, as needed. There are at least three 'human' products available over the counter, some of which will suit a given patient better than others

In conventional medicine, an immunosuppressant drug is usually given, which is quite expensive. Surgery may be offered in extreme cases, to re-route the salivary duct to the eye. However, this will result in tear overflow, every time food is offered and it is very intricate surgery.

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In alternative medicine, we would recommend prompt treatment with [acupuncture](#), supported by [homeopathy](#). In our experience, this treatment is effective in a proportion of cases.

We would also recommend dietary changes, to a healthy, [natural feeding regime](#), to promote better general health and immune balance and function.

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