

UNDERSTANDING CANINE DRY-EYE

What is it?
How serious is it?
What are we going to do?



The clear option for dry-eye relief in dogs

Optimmune[®]
(0.2% Cyclosporine, USP)
Ophthalmic Ointment

What is dry eye?

Dry eye, also called keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS), is one of the most common dog eye problems. It's an immune system disorder that attacks the tear glands in the eyes and can affect up to 1 in every 22 dogs.¹

Natural tears are important. They provide lubrication and carry vital oxygen and nutrients to your dog's eyes. Tears also help protect from infection and injury.

Dry eye destroys a dog's ability to produce tears and can lead to permanent blindness. It's also painful. That's why it's important to diagnose dry eye, as early as possible.

Signs to look for

Is your dog blinking a lot? Rubbing his or her eyes? Or, often trying to keep them closed? These are all signs that may point to dry eye. Look for these other signs, as well:

Red or inflamed eyes

Eye discharge

Dry-looking eyes

Frequent eye infections

Dark coloring on the surface of the eyes

Prominent blood vessels on the surface of the eyes

If you notice any unusual changes in your dog's eyes, talk to your veterinarian right away.

How is dry eye treated?

With proper treatment, this immune system disorder can be managed. Your veterinarian may prescribe OPTIMMUNE® to manage chronic KCS. It works by increasing natural tear production and may help regulate KCS. In the long run, controlling the disease will help improve comfort for your dog's eyes.

Your veterinarian may temporarily prescribe artificial tears to help with lubrication, as well as an antibiotic if your dog also shows signs of an eye infection.

The sooner treatment is started, the better the long-term result.

Follow your veterinarian's instructions

It can take months for tear production to significantly improve; however, your dog's eyes may appear to be improved quickly. You must continue treatment with OPTIMMUNE as prescribed. Dry eye cannot be "cured." Your dog will need treatment for the rest of his or her life. If you stop giving your dog OPTIMMUNE, the disease will likely begin to progress again.

Regular checkups with your veterinarian are also an important part of ongoing treatment. Your dog's tear production should be regularly monitored.

Dry eye is a lifelong condition that requires lifelong care.



Diagnosing dry eye:

It's not possible to tell if your dog has dry eye just by looking at his or her eyes, but there is a quick and simple way to find out.

Your veterinarian will place a special strip of paper called a Schirmer Tear Test in your dog's eyes. The strip measures a dog's ability to make tears. It takes about 60 seconds and is well tolerated by most dogs. Both eyes should be tested because results may be different.



Is your dog at high risk?

Dry eye can affect any breed of dog at any age, but the following breeds are at increased risk for this disease²:

- Cavalier King Charles spaniels
- English bulldogs
- Lhasa apsos
- Shih-tzus
- West Highland terriers
- Pugs
- Bloodhounds
- American cocker spaniels
- Pekingese
- Boston terriers
- Miniature schnauzers
- Samoyeds

Diabetes, hypothyroidism, and Cushing's disease

These three conditions are also associated with a reduced ability to make tears. If your dog has one of these diseases, they're also at greater risk for developing dry eye.³ Routine screenings with the Schirmer Tear Test will aid in early diagnosis.

Treatment tips:

- 1 Follow your vet's advice.** Your veterinarian will always be happy to discuss any concerns or questions you have about your dog's condition.
- 2 Ask for a demonstration.** Your veterinarian will be able to show you how to apply eye ointment correctly.
- 3 Opt for a spare pair of hands.** Having an extra pair of hands to help steady your dog's head may be useful the first few times you apply the medicine.
- 4 Stick to a routine.** This will help you remember to apply your dog's treatment regularly.
- 5 Don't run out.** Contact your veterinarian before you finish your current tube of ointment.
- 6 Don't stop using OPTIMMUNE®.** Even if your dog's eyes start to look better, do not stop treatment unless directed to do so by your veterinarian.
- 7 Schedule regular checkups with your vet.** It's important to monitor the progress of your best friend's condition.



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2 simple steps to help your pet



Hold your dog's head gently but firmly



Place a small amount of medicine in the eye

Remember: If you're calm and steady, it'll help your dog be calm and steady, too.

No more than 1/4" of OPTIMMUNE ointment per eye.



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

For ophthalmic use in dogs only. The clinical effects of OPTIMMUNE® Ophthalmic Ointment have not been determined in dogs with keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) due to the following conditions: congenital alacrima, sulfonamide usage, canine distemper virus, metabolic disease, surgical removal of the third eyelid gland, and facial nerve paralysis with loss of the palpebral reflex. Safety has not been determined in cases of pre-existing viral or fungal ocular infections, nor in puppies, pregnant bitches, or dogs used for breeding. Withdrawal of OPTIMMUNE® Ophthalmic Ointment therapy resulted in rapid clinical regression indicating the need for long-term continual therapy for almost all cases of chronic KCS. For complete safety information, refer to the product label.



References:

1. Pierce VE, Harmer, EJ, Williams DL. (2006) In Proceedings 49th BSA-VA Annual Congress, 20-23 April 2006, Birmingham, UK. p. 561.
2. Sanchez RF, et al. (2007) *J Small Anim Pract.* 48:211-217.
3. Williams DL, et al. (2007) *J Small Anim Pract.* 48:252-256.

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