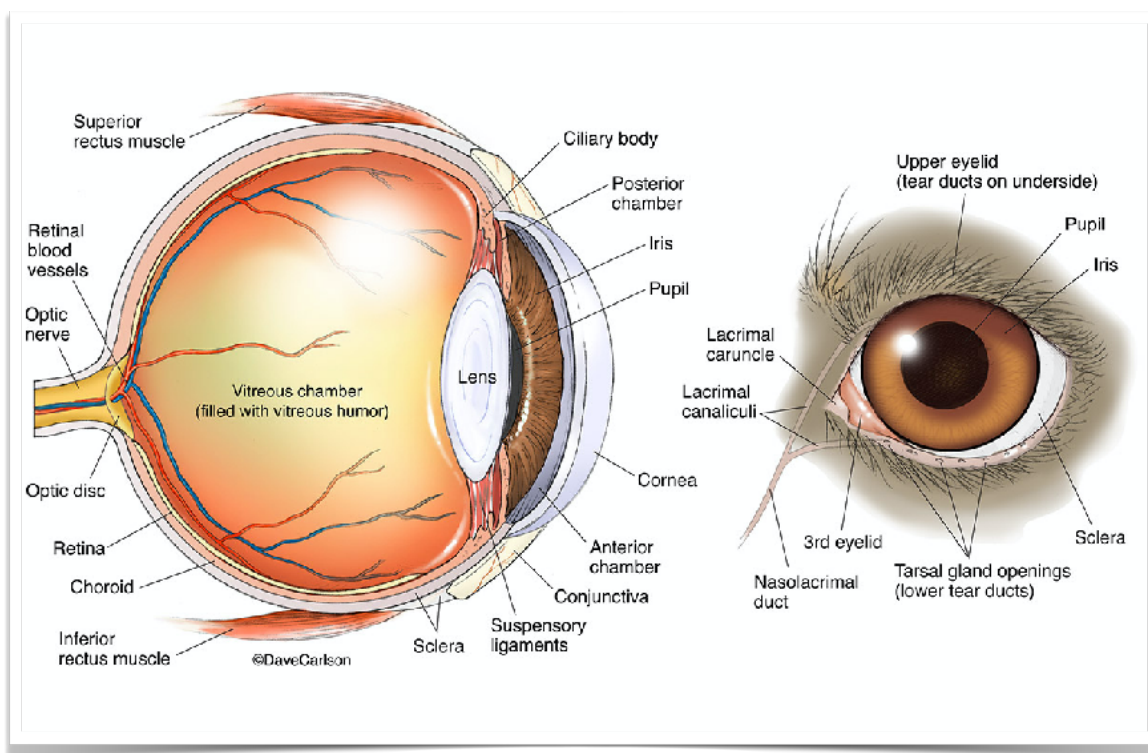


CANINE EYELID MASSES

Eyelid Masses in the Dog



Canine eyelid masses

Eyelid masses or tumors are a common finding in older canine patients, although they can occur at any age. **Most eyelid tumors in dogs are benign** and originate from the glands or skin of the eyelid (meibomian gland adenomas, epitheliomas, melanocytomas, and papillomas). These tumors tend to start out small, but usually enlarge with time leading to irritation of the ocular surface and disruption of eyelid function. Occasionally these eyelid masses can be malignant which necessitates more thorough diagnostics and systemic treatment.

Cats can also develop eyelid tumors, although they are **much more likely to be malignant and require a more thorough work-up**. Common eyelid masses in cats include squamous cell carcinomas, fibrosarcomas, and mast cell tumors.

What are the most common eyelid tumors?

Some of the common types of eyelid tumors in dogs include:

- **Meibomian gland adenoma and adenocarcinoma** (*Figure 1*) - Meibomian gland adenomas (*benign*) and adenocarcinoma (*malignant*) arise from specialized glands of the upper and lower eyelid. These tumors are often pink or gray with a lobulated appearance that grow along the eyelid margin. They tend to become irritated and may bleed as they enlarge.
- **Melanomas** (*Figure 2*) - Eyelid melanomas arise from pigment producing cells, called melanocytes, of the eyelid skin. They can present as either a raised, pigmented single mass on the eyelid skin or a flat pigmented mass growing along the eyelid margin.
- **Papillomas** - Eyelid papillomas are often pink or white bumpy lesions that grow along the eyelid margin. These masses are more common in younger dogs, but can occur at any age and can be caused by a virus. In young dogs these can sometimes spontaneously regress.



Figure 1: Meibomian adenoma



Figure 2: Eyelid melanoma

Does my pet's eyelid tumor require treatment?

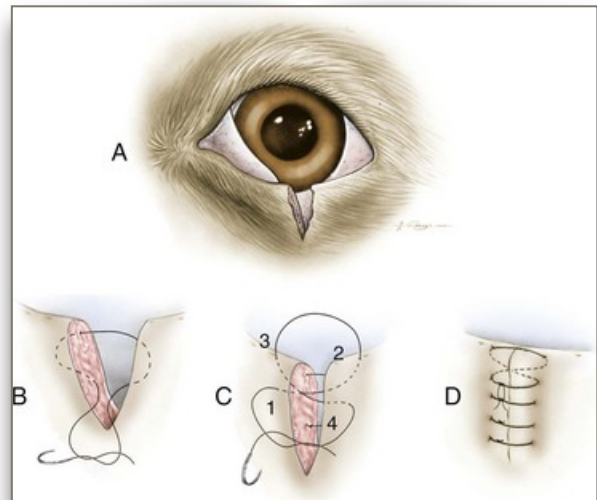
Fortunately, most eyelid margin tumors in dogs are benign and have a low probability of spreading to other organs. These masses can, however, be locally

aggressive causing disfigurement of the eyelid and irritation to the surface of the eye. Eyelid tumors often enlarge in size over time and can become inflamed, cause pain, and rub on the surface of the eye leading to corneal ulcers. **Early treatment is often less invasive and more likely to be curative.** If you notice an eyelid mass on your pet, please schedule an appointment with Animal Vision Center to discuss your treatment options.

How should my pet's eyelid tumor be treated?

Treatment options for your pet will vary depending on the location, size, and type of tumor, along with any concurrent ocular conditions. Our goal is to select a procedure that addresses the tumor while maintaining your pet's eyelid function. Common treatment options include:

- **Surgical Resection (also called V-plasty)** - With this option, a full-thickness, wedge shaped piece of eyelid tissue is removed (encompassing the eyelid tumor). This procedure is done under **general anesthesia and the eyelid wound is closed with delicate suture material (Figure)**. After surgical removal, your pet will have to wear an e-collar for 10-14 days after surgery to ensure proper healing of the eyelid margin.
- **Debulking with Adjunctive Cryotherapy** - Cryosurgery can be a very effective and minimally invasive alternative to surgical resection. This procedure is **performed using light sedation and an injection of a local anesthetic in the eyelid**. The eyelid mass is typically trimmed along the eyelid and the eyelid is treated with two rounds of freezing with a cryoprobe to discourage regrowth. **This is a**



suture-less procedure and usually does not require an e-collar. The eyelid is swollen from the freezing procedure for 3-5 days and heals over a few weeks. Patients can develop depigmentation (a pink spot) along the eyelid margin within 2 weeks of surgery - this usually resolves in about 6 weeks.

What is my pet's prognosis?

Generally speaking, the prognosis is good as more than 75% of canine eyelid tumors are benign. Your pet's prognosis will be related to many factors including: the size, location, and rate of growth along with the type of tumor. A biopsy will be submitted after the procedure to help determine if any additional therapy is warranted. There is a less than 10% chance that the tumor will recur after treatment.



Pre-op Eyelid Mass



6 weeks Post-op Debulk/Cryo