

Anne Chester States:-

I am a Veterinarian of nineteen years experience having graduated from the University of Queensland Veterinary School in 1988. I am employed by RSPCA Qld Inc as the Senior Veterinarian.

On February 25th 2008 I was asked to examine a standard chocolate poodle by RSPCA Inspector Laurie Stageman.

The following is a true and accurate record of my findings.

The dog had a bilateral mucopurulent (thick and green) ocular discharge I was informed by the inspector that when he first examined the dog that the fur around the eye was severely matted with this discharge and the eye was unable to be opened.

The conjunctiva was reddened and inflamed and a diagnosis of bacterial conjunctivitis was made. Bacterial conjunctivitis is fairly common in the dog. Bacterial conjunctivitis (especially if chronic or recurrent) is generally a secondary problem, so underlying causes should be sought. Common predisposing conditions in the dog include eyelid conformation defects.

afternoon
Further examination of the eye revealed the dog had bilateral cataracts. Cataracts are a loss of transparency (partial or complete) of the lens and are seen as opaque discs in the eye. As cataracts become complete (mature), vision loss generally becomes evident. Most cataracts in the dog have a genetic basis and there is a breed predilection in poodles.

The dog was placed on antibiotic eye ointment to be applied to the eyes 2-3x daily, the eyes are wiped daily and the fur has been trimmed from around the face. Since receiving this treatment there has been improvement in the condition. Due to the dog's eyelid conformation defects the condition has not been completely resolved.

Conjunctivitis can cause severe discomfort to a dog especially if routine husbandry procedures are not adhered to resulting in the animal having its eyes "glued" shut by the discharge. It is a condition easily detected by a lay person due to the obvious discharge from the eyes.

Anne Chester BVSc

