

Conjunctivitis in Dogs

also known as pinkeye or red eye, is as common in [dogs](#) as it is in humans. It's an itchy inflammation of the tissue that coats the eye, called the conjunctiva.

Conjunctivitis can happen at any age, by itself or because of another eye problem.

While just one eye is typically affected, conjunctivitis can spread to both .

Symptoms

- **Redness**
- Puffy eyelids
- Stringy discharge
- Watery eyes
- Pawing at his eyes
- Squinting
- Eyelids that stick together , it may be a more serious condition that could cause [blindness](#) if left untreated.

Common Types

1-Allergic Conjunctivitis :This allergic reaction is often seasonal and not contagious.

Causes

- Dust mites ,Pollen , Mold , Dander
- Cosmetics and perfumes
- Drugs

Treatments

- Cold compresses
- Artificial tears
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Antihistamines
- Steroid eye drops

2- Viral Conjunctivitis :This is caused by a virus, spreads easily, and can take up to 3 weeks to get better.

Causes

-Cold

-Sore throat

-Upper respiratory infection

Treatments

- Cold compresses
- Artificial tears
- Steroid eye drops

3-Bacterial Conjunctivitis :This type is also very contagious.

Causes

- Streptococcus (strep)
- Staphylococcus (staph infection)

Treatments : Antibiotic eye drops or ointments

Eye worm Disease (Thelaziasis) in Dogs

Eye worms (***Thelazia californiensis*** and ***T. callipaeda***) are parasites found in dogs, cats, and other animals, including humans, in the western United States and Asia. They are whitish, 0.5 to 0.75 inches (7 to 19 millimeters) long,

-and move in a rapid snake-like motion across the eye.

-Up to 100 eyeworms may be seen in the conjunctival sac, tear ducts, and on the conjunctiva under the nictitating membrane (third eyelid) and eyelids. Filth flies (including the common house fly) serve as intermediate hosts and deposit the infective eyeworm larvae on the eye while feeding on secretions from the eyes.

Signs

include excessive watering of the eyes,

- inflammation of the conjunctiva,

-opaque corneas with slow-healing sores, and rarely, blindness.

Treatment

-After a local anesthetic is applied, diagnosis and treatment are accomplished by observing and carefully removing the parasites with forceps.

Some veterinarians have reported the successful elimination of *Thelazia* infections from dogs with injected medication. Certain eye solutions or ointments also may be effective.

veterinarian will evaluate pet's situation and take the most appropriate treatment approach.