

What is the Eye Scheme?

The BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme is based on eye examination and is a means of identifying inherited and non-inherited ocular conditions in dogs.

The majority of dogs presented for examination under the Eye Scheme are pedigree dogs with known inherited diseases of the eye, but it is important to emphasize that all dogs, including Crossbreds, can be examined under the Scheme.

This approach reassures breeders that the dogs they are to use for breeding have healthy eyes and the inclusive approach means that new and emerging problems are more likely to be recognized.

The aim of the Eye Scheme is to reduce or eliminate the incidence of inherited eye disease.

Eye test clinics

The Vets on the Eye panel are constantly monitored and updated so it is really reassuring to know that there is uniformity and consistency in the Assessments.

How could we get our dogs checked?

Many breeds who do have Hereditary eye conditions run eye clinics at their shows and all breeds are welcome. The advantage of using these clinics is that price charged is considerably less than a private assessment done at the Eye panelists practice.

Where can we find out where these are?

The Dog World newspaper prints a list weekly of these clinics with contact numbers for more information. If there was sufficient interest from Bulldog Exhibitors we could run our own clinics.

How will checking our eyes help us improve eyes in our breed long term?

We are sure that by emphasizing a problem, understanding the causes and recognising where we need to work we can bring awareness which will, after a period of time, spread from the exhibitors to the people buying a pet .

We have proof of this from our work with tails, by making the public aware, we have people actively asking breeders if the dog has a mobile tail when making puppy enquiries. No draconian methods have been needed to improve tails, the breeders responded and the result is there for everyone to see at every show up and down the country.



Bulldogs' Eyes

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Bulldogs : A Category 3 Breed

The Kennel Club have not identified breathing, movement or skin issues associated with the bulldog on their Vet Health checks at shows but have indicated that eyes need attention.

The problem is not an hereditary gene that we can isolate and work hard to eliminate but rather the conformation of a bulldogs head with heavily wrinkled skin around the eyes. At present there does not appear to be any easily identifiable hereditary element but dogs do inherit physical characteristics from their parents .

The biggest improvement can be made by careful selection of breeding stock and helping breeders to understand what to aim for .



Cataract

Dermoid Cyst

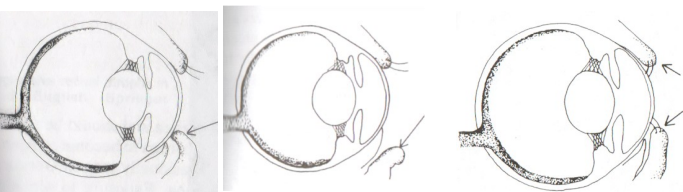
Ectopic cilia



PROLAPSED NICTITANS GLAND "Cherry Eye"

Tear Staining

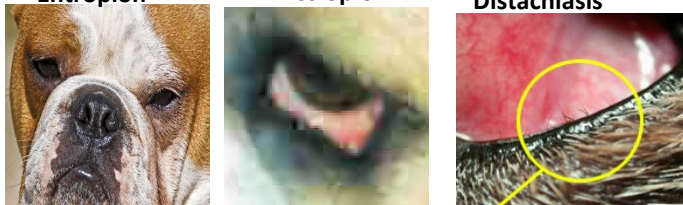
Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS)



Entropion

Ectropion

Distachiasis



KNOWN OCULAR DISEASE

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Hereditary Factor</u>	<u>Age at onset</u>
Cataracts	Not further defined.	Undetermined Varies
Dermoid , small skin patch on cornea often causing irritation.	Recessive	Undetermined
Distichiasis Abnormal location of eyelashes on the margin of the eyelid causing irritation.	Undetermined	6 months onwards
Ectopic Cilia (Aberrant Cilia): Eyelashes are abnormally placed on the conjunctiva (inner surface) of the eyelid (most often upper eyelid)	Undetermined	Birth onwards
Ectropion : Turning out of the eyelids, causing excessive exposure of the eyeball.	Undetermined	6 months onward
Entropion : Turning in of the eyelids, causing the eyelashes to rub the eye ball	Undetermined	1 year onwards
Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS) Inadequate tear production, causing irritation of the conjunctiva and cornea.	Undetermined	1 year onwards
Prolapse of the Gland of the Third Eyelid (Cherry Eye) gland protrudes into the medial canthus of the eye. The tissue becomes swollen and red-dened, resulting in the term cherry eye.	Undetermined	5 weeks onwards
Tear Staining. Overflow of tears either due to irritation or blockage of the nasolacrimal duct.	Undetermined	

How can the eyes of a bulldog be improved?

We must identify and recognize the common problems found in our breed and provide illustrations and photographs of the conditions we wish to eliminate so that breeders have sufficient information to help them make informed choices in their breeding program.

By selecting breeding stock, free of eye problems and selecting stock with finer wrinkled skin around the eyes.



An example of nasal fold trichiasis resulting in pigmentary keratitis, characterised by the discolouration of the cornea and presence of blood vessels on the eyeball.

Through continuous careful monitoring of the dogs in their kennel, looking for any signs of damage which, if found, must be treated by the vet ASAP as scarring occurs often from even minor scratches. Noting the incidence of cherry eye and avoid mating together two dogs who have this condition, although there are also environmental factors to be considered. Strong floor cleaners with fumes, scratches from other pets or the shrubs in woods and garden can all cause damage to a dogs eyes.

But also the conformation needs to be looked at and evaluated. Basic visual eye examinations, forms part of our present health scheme.

Breeders may wish to take part in the BVA scheme [middle part] which would provide verified data and information on the true picture of eye health in the breed.