



The Hunter's Blind

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Coming Events

- 02/09-02/10/2019 Central Florida HRC
- 02/09-02/10/2019 Cherokee Foothills HRC
- 02/09-02/10/2019 Carolina Boykin RC
- 02/16/2019 NEFHRC Training Day
- 02/23/2019 Bay Area HRC
- 03/02-03/03/2019 Middle Georgia HRC
- 03/09-03/10/2019 Etowah Retriever
- 03/16-03/17/2019 SOWEGA
- 03/16-03/17/2019 Midlands HRC
- 03/23-03/24/2019 Eastern Carolina HRC
- 03/30-03/31/2019 Old South HRC
- 03/30-03/31/2019 NEFHRC Hunt Test

About NEFHRC Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is to help members keep updated on our club events, achievements, or other announcements that may be of interest. If you have something you would like to submit, please call or e-mail Karen VanDonsel at (828-877-3254 or webmaster@nefhrc.net).

Please feel free to submit pic-



tures, brags, sale of dog or training equipment, litters or any other items of interest for club members. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

This newsletter is for you, our members. We want to include what you want. So, please help make this a great newsletter and submit your articles, pictures, stories and ideas. We want to hear from you!

Membership Renewals

As a reminder, all membership renewal were due on January 1st. Please renew your membership, if you have not already done so.

You can download a hard copy of the membership application from the web site at <https://www.nefhrc.net/documents/fillable-member-app.pdf>. Simply fill out the application and mail it, along with payment, to the address shown in

the body of the application. Alternatively, you can access the Online Membership Application on the web site at <https://nefhrc.net/club-information/online-membership-application/>. Renewing has never been so easy.

The club uses PayPal to collect payment for the dues. You do not need a PayPal account in order to

check out. You can enter credit card information directly.

Memberships are not considered renewed/active until payment is received.

Don't forget—renew today if you have not already done so. Don't miss out on club news and activities!



A Dog Owner's Guide to Canine Dry Eye

“... The eye is deficient in the natural moisture supplied by tears, and so the surface lacks lubrication and dries out “

It's not often a topic makes a particular patient instantly spring to mind, but say “dry eye” (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) and I immediately think of Ben, a gorgeous bear of a German shepherd.

Ben was a gentle giant, an imposing dog that some children avoided, and yet all he wanted was love. But what truly impressed me about Ben was the he lived with the constant, nagging, burning soreness of severe dry eye – and he never once complained or grumbled.

For those unfamiliar with the condition, dry eye is just what it says. The eye is deficient in the natural moisture supplied by tears, and so the surface lacks lubrication and dries out. This is like having permanently hot itchy eyes, and every time you blink sand rubs into your cornea (the surface of the eye). Now you begin to understand why Ben's gentle patience was so outstanding.

Perhaps your dog has gloopy eyes, or rubs his face a lot, and now you are wondering if he has dry eye. What are the signs to look for?

Signs of Dry Eye

A healthy eye glistens: The moisturizing tear fluid that bathes the cornea makes it shiny and bright, but a dry eye lacks luster. To check this out, see if you can see reflections in your dog's eye. Whereas a normal cornea acts like a

mini mirror, a dry eye has a dull, matt surface.

Dry eyes are sticky: Nature is clever. Tear fluid is made up of two elements: an aqueous (watery) part and a mucus component. The mucus mixes with the aqueous part to hold it in place, a bit like coating the cornea in cling film. However, even when the aqueous is absent the mucus is still present but in its thick, undiluted form. This means a tacky, gummy discharge which can be so sticky as to glue the eyelids together.

Red eye: The dry eye quickly becomes sore and inflamed, which means the white of the eye looks angry and red.

Pigment patches: The cornea is delicate structure and it doesn't cope well with the constant sandpaper-like rubbing of eyelids over the dry surface. To protect it, the normally transparent cells of the cornea toughen up and become impregnated with pigment. These look like blotches of (usually) brown pigment on the surface of the eye. Taken to an extreme, these pigment patches can take cover the entire surface and the dog loses his vision.

Blinking and rubbing: Some dogs cope with the constant discomfort by squinting, and keeping the eye partially closed. Others can't resist the urge to rub at the eyes and scoot their faces along the ground. (Of

course, rubbing their face can be a sign of other things such as an ear infection, or dental issues, so don't jump to conclusions based on this alone.)

Breed-related Risk

There is a pattern that dogs from certain breeds are more at risk than others. Ben was a German shepherd, and indeed dry eye is not uncommon in this breed. Others that seem to suffer from more than their fair share of this condition include Cocker spaniels, West Highland white terriers, Shih Tzus, Cavaliers, Bulldogs, Bull terriers, miniature Schnauzers, Chihuahuas, Pekinese, and Dachshunds.

So if you're worried your dog has dry eye, where do you go from here?

Diagnosing Dry Eye

Confirming your suspicion and diagnosing dry eye is relatively simple, and something your veterinarian can do in the clinic. However, to avoid interfering with the test results be sure that you don't wipe the eye or use any sort of eye drop on the day of the appointment.

Schirmer Tear Test

This diagnostic test measures how much tear fluid is (or isn't!) produced, and is simplicity itself. The Schirmer test strips are narrow lengths of filter paper marked up in millime-

“A healthy eye glistens. . . Dry eyes are sticky. . .”



A Dog Owner's Guide to Canine Dry Eye

“There are several potential causes [of dry eye in dogs], but head and shoulders above the rest is autoimmune disease.”

ters, like a miniature paper ruler. The clinician folds the end of the test strip to form a hook, which she sits in the pocket formed between the lower eyelid and the cornea. [£] [\$]

The idea is the strip wicks moisture, which travels down the paper. The vet times one minute, at which point she removes the strip and records how far the moisture traveled.

- 15 – 25 mm travelled in 1 minute is considered normal
- 10 – 15 mm is OK
- Less than 10 mm points towards inadequate tear production
- Less than 5 mm confirms dry eye.

Both eyes are tested, because this condition may affect one eye or both or indeed one eye may be worse than the other. If the results are in a gray zone it's best to repeat the test a week or so later to see if things have got better or worse.

Checking overall eye health

Your vet also looks at the overall health of the cornea, checking for ulcers, inflamed blood vessels, and pigment patches. This is to assess if other factors are aggravating the condition, such as eyelashes rubbing on the surface and in-turned eyelids. Each of these problems then needs

addressing in its own right. Before considering which therapy to use (and some excellent options are available) it helps to know the mechanism behind dry eye because this helps you understand the treatment choices.

The Causes of Dry Eye In Dogs

There are several potential causes, but head and shoulders above the rest is autoimmune disease. Let's take a quick peak at them all:

- Autoimmune disease: The body attacks its own tear producing glands
- Nerve damage: Infection, inflammation, or cancer damages the nerves which tell the eye to produce tears (Rare)
- Trauma: If the eye prolapses from the socket, this stretches the nerves and interferes with tear production. With treatment, these cases may get better after one or two months

Drug side effect: Unfortunately, in some dogs certain medications can have the unwanted side effect of inducing dry eye. Most commonly, these are drugs that contain sulphonamides, such as salazopyrin (for colitis) or sulphonamide antibiotics.

A Deeper Look at Autoimmune Dis-

ease

By far the commonest cause of dry eye is autoimmune disease. Here, the body's immune system gets confused, and instead of fending off invading bacteria it picks on the glands that produce tear fluid. Immune cells flood into the glands (as if they were attacking the body) in such numbers they destroy the glands' structure and they can no longer produce tear fluid.

No one is quite sure why this happens, although exposure to ultraviolet light, such as bright sunshine, worsens the immune attack.

In some cases, if the dog receives treatment early and responds well, the damage may be reversed. However, the majority of dogs need regular medication to control the signs and keep the eye comfortable.

Treatment for Dry Eye

Happily, there are options for treatment, including medical therapy or surgery. However the surgical option is hardly used now, because the eye ointments are so good.

Medical Treatment

The ideal drug would stop the body attacking the tear glands and leave them to do their job in peace. Happily, this is exactly what the most recent drug therapy option does.



A Dog Owner's Guide to Canine Dry Eye

State of the Art Therapy

A drug called cyclosporine was developed on the back of organ transplant medicine. When given by mouth cyclosporine stops transplanted organs being rejected. But with regard to dry eye veterinarians didn't want to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut and so a topical ointment containing cyclosporine was developed. When this ointment is put into the eye it acts locally to protect those precious tear glands.

You put half an inch of cyclosporine into the eye twice daily. Some dogs respond brilliantly within six weeks of starting therapy, and the good responders can be weaned down to once daily treatment, or sometimes even every other day. This can be a big help to owners because not only is this more convenient, but the ointment is expensive, so less frequent applications help the pocket book.

Anti-Inflammatory Drops

The downside of cyclosporine is the expense, which puts it outside some owners reach. This was the case with Ben, so we had to explore the next best option of anti-inflammatory drops and artificial tears.

Much of the discomfort comes from inflamed itchy eyes. In a two-pronged attack steroid drops decrease the inflammation, whilst false tears provide

lubrication. Steroids are cheap, but can't be used if the cornea is ulcerated because it makes the ulcer worse. Happily, Ben's eye was healthy enough to cope with steroids, which his owner put in with great dedication three times a day.

However, steroids are not the end of it because regular application of artificial tears is needed to moisten the eye. Indeed, not all artificial tears are the same, and their formulation governs how long they last in the eye. Some consist of sterile saline, which evaporates pretty quickly and so needs hourly application – quite a big ask for owner and pet.

Other artificial tears are formulated in an oily base, which helps them stick around for longer, or more sophisticated still there are some made with hyaluronic acid which again has superior persistence and the manufacturers claim two to three times application is sufficient in some dogs.

Surgery

This is mainly reserved for dogs that do not respond to medical treatment or it's impractical to put drops in regularly. The procedure involves rerouting the duct from the parotid salivary gland, so that instead of saliva draining into the mouth it empties into the eye.

Part of the reason this technique has fallen out of

favour is the eye may "water" heavily when the dog sees something tasty to eat, and indeed this can lead to problems where the skin becomes too wet and infection sets in.

And Finally

Thanks to the dedication of his owners, Ben coped with his dry eye for years; steroids and false tears kept the condition at bay. However, there is no doubt that cyclosporine therapy offers real hope, and along with improvements in artificial tear technology the future looks brighter for dry eye.

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Full article with references: <https://doghealthinsider.com/a-dog-owners-guide-to-canine-dry-eye/>.



Below is a listing of all pet health related articles that have appeared in *The Hunter's Blind*, along with the issue in which the article appeared. If you need to refer to a particular article, you can download the specific issue on the Newsletter page of the club's web site (<http://www.nefhrc.net/newsletters/>). If you have any problems or questions, please e-mail Karen VanDonsel at Webmaster@nefhrc.net.

Article	Issue Included
Living With a Blind Dog: Helpful Tips	03/01/2016
Ear Infections (Otitis Externa) & Ear Cleaning in Dogs	04/01/2016
First Aid for Snake Bites in Dogs	05/01/2016
An Evacuation Kit for Your Dog	06/01/2016
Heatstroke (Hyperthermia)	07/01/2016
Ruptured Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL)	08/01/2016
Burns: First Aid for Pets	09/01/2016
Food Allergies and Food Intolerance	10/01/2016
Choking: Using the Heimlich Maneuver in Dogs	11/01/2016
Dog Emergencies: Contact Your Veterinarian When Your Dog Shows These Signs	11/01/2016
Arthritis (Degenerative Joint Disease, Osteoarthritis)	12/01/2016
Causes and Management of Arthritis & Other Joint Diseases in Dogs	01/01/2017
Hip Dysplasia in Dogs: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention	02/01/2017
Heartworm (Dirofilaria Immitis) Infection & Prevention	04/01/2017
Mast Cell Tumors	05/01/2017
Kennel Cough (Infectious Tracheobronchitis) in Dogs	08/01/2017
Canine Influenza (Dog Flu)	09/01/2017
Blastomycosis	10/01/2017
Benign Skin Tumors in Dogs	12/01/2017
Coughing in Dogs and Cats	01/01/2018
Sneezing and Nasal Discharge in Dogs and Puppies	02/01/2018
When and How to Induce Vomiting in Your Dog	03/01/2018 & 06/01/2018
Ten Dangers to Your Dog in the Summer	04/01/2018
How to Keep Mosquitoes Away from Your Dog	05/01/2018
Common Reasons Your Dog Might be Limping and When to See a Vet	09/01/2018
How to Help Arthritis in Dogs	10/01/2018
A Dog Owner's Guide to Doggie Dental Care	11/01/2018
Care For Dog Vomiting and Diarrhea	12/01/2018
Dog Owner's Guide to Excessive Panting in Dogs	01/01/2019
A Dog Owner's Guide to Canine Dry Eye	02/01/2019



NORTHEAST FLORIDA HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB

www.nefhrc.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

____ **New Member** ____ **Renewal**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE Home: _____

Other: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DOG BREED: _____

CALL NAME: _____

Club dues are \$50.00 for both individual and family membership. The dues include the cost of the NEFHRC decal.

ANNUAL CLUB DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR.

Please make checks payable to **NORTHEAST FLORIDA HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB.**

Mail the check and both pages to:

John Spivey, NEFHRC Treasurer
2427 Creekfront Drive
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(386) 288-1350

Areas where I'd like to help with the Club:

RELEASE

WHEREAS the undersigned desires to release certain parties from any damages that may arise, directly or indirectly, as the result of his/her participation in club activities offered by the Northeast Florida Hunting Retriever Club, fully realizing the inherent danger in any type of sporting event of this nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of being allowed to participate in said activities, the undersigned does hereby release and forever discharge Northeast Florida Hunting Retriever Club, its officers, directors, members, participants, spectators, and all landowners whose land they may be using, from and all manner of actions, causes of such actions, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise now or in the future because of, or pertaining to, the undersigned's participation in any of its activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my hand the date and year written below.

DATED AND SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____.

(Name Printed) _____ (Name Signed) _____

All club members are urged to also become members of the national HRC. To do so, complete the form found on our website and send to: UNITED KENNEL CLUB - HRC, 100 East Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Annual National HRC dues are \$25.00 (individual) and \$30.00 (family). This membership includes the *HUNTING RETRIEVER* magazine.

If currently a member of the National HRC, enter Membership # _____ and Expiration Date _____.



Hunting Retriever Club, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

In North America today, there is an organization that was established to test the hunting retriever in a true-to-life hunting environment. This organization, the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc., was created to develop the type of testing that you, and thousands like you, have wanted for years. The Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC) has established a no-nonsense, true to life, training and testing program where gun dog owners meet, train, learn and test their dogs afield.

The HRC was formed under the auspices of the United Kennel Club, Inc. (UKC). UKC was founded in 1898 as a purebred dog registry devoted to maintaining the inherent working abilities of hunting dogs. UKC sponsors more hunting dog events than any other such organization in the world.

You can renew your HRC membership or join HRC on line on UKC's website by ordering the Hunting Retriever magazine. Each membership includes a subscription to the HRC magazine, which includes training and information articles as well as local Club event results and a list of upcoming events of the HRC local Clubs. You can choose a one or two year membership that will begin as soon as your application is processed.

If you prefer, you may use the paper application below. Please include a check or money order payable in United States funds, made out to *HRC, Inc.* or *UKC* Send the application & fees to:

**Hunting Retriever Club, Inc.
c/o United Kennel Club, Inc.
100 E. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002**

Membership type:

USA: 1 year Individual \$25.00_____ Family \$30.00_____

2 year Individual \$50.00_____ Family \$60.00_____

Foreign/Canadian: 1 year Individual \$30.00_____ Family \$35.00_____

2 year Individual \$60.00_____ Family \$70.00_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

What HRC Local Club are you a member of? _____

Family members name(s):



We're on the web!

<http://nefhrc.net>

NEFHRC is sanctioned by the United Kennel Club, Inc. We are a club devoted to the training of bird hunting dogs for the purposes of hunting and hunt tests. As the UKC says, we are a club "*Conceived by hunters for hunters.*"

Club Officers and Contacts

- ⇒ **President—Jenny Richardson**
President@nefhrc.net (904) 669-6156
- ⇒ **Vice-President— Christian Hazouri**
Vicepresident@nefhrc.net (904) 524-2201
- ⇒ **Secretary—Nancy Refsnider**
Secretary@nefhrc.net (805) 757-1029
- ⇒ **Treasurer—John Spivey**
Treasurer@nefhrc.net (386) 288-1350
- ⇒ **Past President—Tom Gaddis**
hooked-up@comcast.net (904) 699-3084
- ⇒ **Webmaster/Newsletter Editor—Karen VanDonsel**
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