

THIRD EYELID and THIRD EYELID GLAND

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The third eyelid (or nictitating membrane) is in the medial portion of the inferior conjunctival sac, between the cornea and the lower eyelid.

Third eyelid consists of;

- ✓ T shaped cartilaginous skeleton
- ✓ Third eyelid gland
- ✓ Conjunctiva
- ✓ Lymphoid follicles (under the bulbar surface)

The third eyelid functions are;

- Protection of the corneal surface
- Secretion of tear film
- Production of immunoglobulin for the tear

IF THE THIRD EYELID AND THIRD EYELID GLAND ARE REMOVED, FOLLOWING PROBLEMS OCCUR

- Decreased tear production
- Increased corneal exposure, drying of the cornea
- Chronic conjunctivitis
- Purulent and often resistant to treatment conjunctivitis

EVERSION (OR SCROLLING) OF THE THIRD EYELID

Rolling out of the margin of the third eyelid

Unilateral or bilateral

Commonly seen in young, giant breed dogs

Eversion is corrected with surgically. The deformed of excessive cartilage is removed from the bulbar surface surgically.

Topical antibiotics are used after surgery

PROTRUSION OF THE GLAND OF THE THIRD EYELID (CHERRY EYE)

Most commonly in dogs and occasionally in cats.

The gland of the third eyelid protrudes as a reddish follicular mass from behind the margin of the third eyelid.

Lymphoid hyperplasia (because of the environmental antigens in young animals)

Gland surgically replaces to the normal anatomical position

Elizabethan collar

PROLAPSED GLANDS OF THE
THIRD EYELID ARE TREATED
BY REPLACEMENT,

DO NOT REMOVE THE GLAND

THE THIRD EYELID NEOPLASMS

- ✓ Lymphoma, hemangioma and hemangiosarcoma, adenocarcinoma in small animals
- ✓ Squamous cell carcinoma in cattle and horses.
- ✓ Surgical excision of third eyelid and surrounding conjunctiva are recommended.
- ✓ Artificial tears