

Pannus



What is it?

Pannus, otherwise known as chronic superficial keratitis, is a condition in which a film of inflammatory tissue grows over the surface of the eye. This tissue typically darkens over time.

What causes it?

Both genetic and environmental factors combine which results in an overactive immune system response and the growth of inflammatory tissue on the eye. German Shepherd dogs are the most commonly affected breed. Exposure to sunlight is the major environmental factor that worsens this disease.

How is it treated?

Pannus is treated with eye ointments or drops designed to clear and control the inflammatory tissue. Treatment is typically lifelong, as this type of immune-mediated inflammation tends to recur if treatment is discontinued. More intensive treatment may be necessary during the summer months. Protecting the eyes from sunlight by providing shade or an indoor environment and using UV-filtered goggles will also help control the disease.

What to expect after starting treatment?

The success rate of treatment is very high. If treatment is discontinued, we anticipate the disease to return, leading to painful, itchy eyes, and eventually, blindness.

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