



UNLEASHED

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2020 Meeting/Event Dates

The next COLRC meeting will be
Wednesday, November 4
6:30 p.m. at the home of Lori & John
Bentine

R.S.V.P. to Lori at labwriter@aol.com
or 614/579-3990

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CHECK OUT CENTRAL OHIO LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB
ON FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/575516432535825/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/575516432535825/)

Happy
Thanksgiving



Elections at the November 4 meeting

Please review the slate of COLRC
Board of Directors for 2021-2023.

A vote will be taken at the November
4th meeting to be held at the home of
Lori & John Bentine.

Slate of COLRC Board of Directors
for 2021- 2023:

Cora Fleming
Cindy Gerhan
Chris Kofron
Jennifer Stotts

Due to COVID, the club will NOT be
having a Christmas party. But,
President Sally Bell wishes everyone
a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a
safe and prosperous new year!!!

DON'T OVERLOOK DRY EYE IN DOGS

By Beth Mueller

MOST COMMON EYE PROBLEM IN DOGS

Tears have an important role in keeping the eye healthy. They cover the cornea and wash away debris and infectious agents. They even have germ-fighting properties! When the eye's tear film—the thin but complex layer of fluid coating the eye—does not contain enough tears, dogs (and people) are subject to a condition known as “dry eye.” (The medical term for this condition is keratoconjunctivitis sicca.)

Dr. Bianca Martins, a board-certified ophthalmologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says dry eye is the most common ailment she sees in dogs.

Signs and Causes of Dry Eye

“Dogs with this condition typically have red eyes from irritation as well as some thick mucoid discharge. They will squint frequently and may blink excessively or keep their eyes closed,” Dr. Martins says. Dry eye can be painful, so the animal may paw at the eye more than normal or shy away from the area being touched. These signs often occur in both eyes.

Dry eye usually shows up in dogs that are between 4 and 6 years old, but can happen at any age. Flat-faced breeds, such as shih tzus, pugs, and Boston terriers, are more likely to develop it.

There is a qualitative form of the condition, related to underproduction of a specific type of high-quality tear, but most dogs have a quantitative form of dry eye, in which the eye simply doesn't produce enough tears.

“Dry eye is most commonly caused by an immune-mediated reaction of the lacrimal glands, the structures that produce tears,” Dr. Martins says. “Immune mediated” means that the body's immune system attacks the lacrimal glands and shuts them down.

Other causes include certain medications, such as long-term administration of oral antibiotics that contain sulfonamide, and genetic factors, such as a gene that predisposes some dogs to be born with abnormally small glands.

Diagnosis and Treatment

“Most veterinary clinics are able to perform a Schirmer tear test to diagnose dry eye. The test is performed by placing a sterile paper strip on the surface of the eye to measure how much tear is present,” Dr. Martins explains.

If the strip determines that there is decreased tear production, then the dog has the quantitative form of dry eye. If this test does not reveal inadequate tears, a visit to a veterinary ophthalmologist may be required. A specialist can diagnose the qualitative form by using special stains on the cornea.



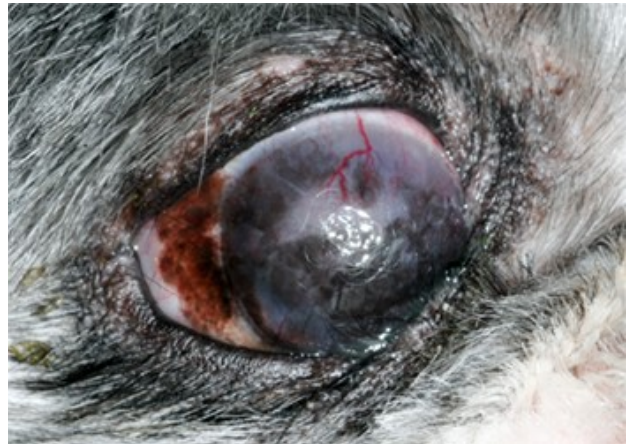
Patient with uncontrolled dry eye, with excessive ocular discharge.

Treatment focuses on increasing the dog's quality of life and making sure the dog isn't in pain. Luckily, if dry eye is caught and treated early, the animal has a good chance of maintaining vision and eye comfort.

Artificial tear drops are sometimes used to treat dry eye, but because the drops don't stay in the eye for long they aren't very effective.

"The most common treatment option consists of medicated drops or ointment that goes directly on the affected eye or eyes," Dr. Martins says. The medication works to decrease the body's immune response and stimulate the lacrimal glands to produce tears again. Treatment takes up to 4 weeks to start working, and the dog will need the medication lifelong.

If medical therapy is not effective in the patient, doctors may perform a surgical procedure called "parotid duct transposition." One of the ducts in the mouth that produce saliva is surgically moved to the eye. Although this transposed duct adds moisture to the eye, because the moisture differs from tears in its normal pH and mineral content, this procedure is not curative and leads to chronic problems. For this reason, the surgery is not often done.



Chronic, untreated dry eye with extensive scar tissue and pigmentation of the surface of the eye, leading to blindness.

Don't Overlook Dry Eye

Pets that have red eyes or discharge should see a veterinarian right away. Not only does dry eye cause pain and impact the pet's quality of life, but severe and life-long consequences may occur without prompt veterinary treatment.

"Chronic dry eye may lead to ulcers that may become infected and rupture," warns Dr. Martins. "Without the proper lubrication on the eye, pigment will build up over the cornea and result in permanent blindness."

If you have any questions about your pet's eyes, please contact your local veterinarian.

By Beth Mueller

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General COLRC Information



The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the Labrador community and the dog fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

Please address or email all articles, announcements, comments and suggestions to newsletter@colrc.com. Unleashed is published ten to twelve times per year. Closing for each issue is the 20th day of the month prior to publication.

Dues are \$25 annually for a single membership and \$40 for a joint membership. Business cards will be placed on the COLRC website for the year at a cost of \$50 for members and non-members.

Club members who wish to utilize the Litter Listing Column of the newsletter and website will be required to pay \$50 per litter listing unless they have worked at two of our three club events during the course of the year.

Meetings General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

OFFICERS

President.....	Sally Bell	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Treasurer.....	Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Secretary.....	Brian Tipton	(Term expires Dec 2021)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership.....	Linda Bednarski
Newsletter.....	Christine Nickerson
Puppy Match.....	Linda Bednarski
Show Chair.....	Cora Fleming
Eye Clinic.....	Jennifer Stotts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Gerhan	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Christine Kofron	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Jennifer Stotts	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Jan Eichenser	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Sue Frazier	(Term expires Dec 2020)