



PANNUS

Pannus is a bilateral, progressive, inflammatory and potentially blinding disease of the canine cornea. It is also known as superficial stromal keratitis, chronic superficial keratitis and Ubbereiter's syndrome. The underlying cause for pannus is still unknown, however it is believed to be related to ultraviolet light affecting the cornea in breed susceptible dogs.

Predisposing Factors

1. Breed; German Shepherds, Greyhounds, Border Collies and Kelpies
2. Sunlight; exacerbated by ultraviolet light & therefore is generally more severe in summer.
3. Altitude; lesions are more severe in dogs living at altitudes greater than 4000ft

Clinical Signs

1. Vascular form; blood vessel reaction across the cornea
2. Pigment form; darkening of specific areas on the cornea
3. Corneal lipidiosis; cloudiness of the cornea
4. Depigmentation of the third eyelid

Greyhounds tend to be affected at a younger age, usually by 2-3 years and the lesions are often vascular in nature and with secondary lipidiosis.

Treatment

1. Topical corticosteroids
2. Topical cyclosporin

The condition is often worse in summer requiring more frequent application of topical medications. Ways of minimizing the effect of ultraviolet light in summer include reducing exposure to sunlight especially between 11am & 3pm and consideration dog sunglasses.

The treatment of pannus is aimed at controlling rather than curing the condition and therefore, treatment is lifelong.