

## VETERINARY VOICE: Tips of the Trade

### Ophthalmology: Canine eyelid tumors- Meibomian gland tumors and eyelid melanomas

<b>Most common eyelid tumors?</b>	Benign neoplasms outnumber malignant by a ratio of 3:1 in dogs. The largest group is tumors arising from the meibomian glands (adenomas and rarely, adenocarcinomas). Eyelid melanomas are the second most common tumor seen.
<b>Signalment?</b>	Usually present in dogs 10 years old or older. No gender predisposition. Can occur in any breed, but beagles, Labradors, Siberian huskies, and poodles are overrepresented in some studies.
<b>Clinical appearance?</b>	<p><u>Meibomian gland tumors:</u> These are first noticed erupting through the eyelid margin or the palpebral conjunctiva just behind the eyelid margin. These are often associated with a chalazion which can make them appear swollen and larger. They may be pink or pigmented and may appear as multiple lobes. With exposure, they may ulcerate or bleed. They can cause local irritation leading to blepharospasm, conjunctival hyperemia, corneal vascularization, and corneal ulceration.</p> <p><u>Lid melanomas:</u> Two distinct classes of these tumors exist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Arises from the eyelid skin and usually a single or multiple pigmented mass. It can usually be excised with low recurrence rates.</li><li>2. Arises from pigmented eyelid margin and tends to expand in both directions. These are more locally aggressive. They behave more benignly than oral or cutaneous melanoma and excision can be curative.</li></ol>
<b>Diagnosis?</b>	Based on clinical appearance and histopathology. Surgery can be curative for both tumor types if complete excision is accomplished.
<b>Treatment and prognosis?</b>	Tumors can be excised via wedge resection (2 or 4 sided) depending on the size of the tumor. Bear in mind that no more than 1/3 of the eyelid margin should be removed with a primary closure. Tumors can also be ablated with the CO2 laser. Dr. Betbeze routinely performs CO2 laser ablation of benign eyelid tumors and can oftentimes perform with sedation and local anesthesia. This is a good option for older pets that you may not want to place under general anesthesia for a small procedure.
<b>Questions?</b>	The Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson has a board-certified ophthalmologist available for questions and consultations on ophthalmic diseases and surgeries during the weekdays. She is also on call to provide consultations to VSCT emergency doctors and to perform emergency procedures for patients seen by the VSCT emergency service. Board-certified ophthalmologists have four additional years of training after veterinary school and are certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists' to assure competency in advanced veterinary ophthalmology.
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