



Greys Matter

# PANNUS

(chronic superficial keratitis)

## What is pannus?

Pannus is disease that affects the cornea, which is the transparent part at the front of the eye. It occurs when the dog's own immune system attacks the surface of cornea causing inflammation and scarring. We don't know why the immune system starts attacking normal parts of the body.

## What are the symptoms of pannus?

We recognise pannus as either blood vessels or dark pigment (or both) spreading across the cornea. These changes can affect the dog's vision.

The most typical presentation of pannus is pigment starting at outside edge of the cornea, where the cornea meets the white part of the eye (the sclera). The pigment gradually spreads toward the inner edge. If left untreated, it can cover the whole cornea.

Sometimes the white part of the eye appears quite red and the dog may squint or hold the eye closed, which is a sign of discomfort.



## How is pannus treated?

Pannus cannot be cured but it can be well managed. There are several different treatment options, all of which act by dampening down the immune system's reaction to the eye.

The most common treatment prescribed is cortisone-based eye drops (eg Prednefrin forte). These drops are applied daily on an ongoing basis. Regular check ups (every 6 months) are recommended to monitor the eyes and see if any changes to medication is needed.

If the eye appears red or sore, the medication should be stopped and veterinary attention sought straight away.