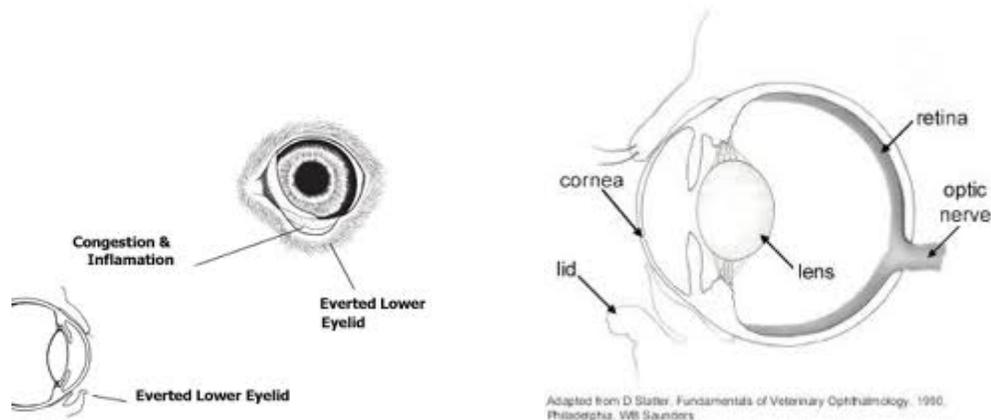


Health - Ectropion

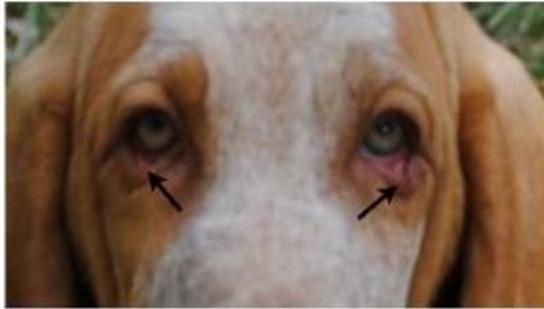
This condition is a defect of conformation in which there is a sagging (or rolling out!) of the eyelids. This leads to abnormal exposure of the eye which often causes irritation. Because of the abnormal exposure of the eye, dogs with this condition often develop allergic or bacterial conjunctivitis or a reduction in the production of tears, thereby making the eyeball dry and unable to clean itself. Again, dogs who have had surgical intervention to correct ectropion cannot be exhibited in the show ring but may enter working events.

Like entropion, ectropion is a condition generally caused by breeders selecting stock with over prominent eyes or heavy facial skins from which to breed. In order to rectify this problem breeders should attempt to breed only from dogs with a more normal head formation so as to select away from exaggerated facial features.

Ectropion



Ectropion is the medical term for the turning out of the eyelid. This condition is almost exclusively found in the lower eyelid. Exposure of the conjunctiva is the most noticeable sign of ectropion. It may be caused by excessive eyelid length or by decreased tone of the eyelid muscles. Ectropion can also result from surgically over-correcting an entropion.



Ectropion

The dog's eyelid rolls outward, exposing the conjunctiva to dirt and debris. The eye becomes inflamed and is prone to infection.



Ectropion in a Dog

Aside from being unattractive, ectropion can cause chronic conjunctivitis as well as "dry eye" problems. With an ectropic eyelid, the eyeball and the inside lining of the eyelid are much more exposed to airborne irritants.

Dogs with ectropic eyelids often have an accompanying conjunctivitis.

Most cases of ectropion can be corrected surgically.

General anesthesia is required for this procedure. A small wedge of skin is surgically removed from the eyelid. A few sutures are required in order to close the incision.

In order to protect the incision and sutures from self-inflicted wounds, most dogs often need to wear a special protective device around their heads like an Elizabethan collar. This device should only be removed at feeding time. It can be eliminated when the incision is healed and the sutures are removed.