



DISTICHIA

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Distichiasis is the growth of eyelashes in an abnormal location on the eyelid, which can cause irritation and damage to the cornea of the eye; however, some pets with this condition experience no clinical signs at all.

Certain breeds including the Cocker Spaniel, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Shih Tzu, Lhasa Apso, Dachshund, Shetland Sheepdog, Golden Retriever, Boston Terrier, Pug, Boxer, and Pekingese are more prone to developing **distichia**.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A physical and ophthalmic examination performed by a veterinarian can often yield the diagnosis of **distichiasis**.

Also, patients will often be tested for corneal abrasions or ulcers.

TREATMENT

In some patients, **distichiasis** causes no secondary problems, and can go untreated.

If the eyelashes are causing secondary issues, then your patient can have one of two procedures:

- Manual Epilation – veterinarians will manually pluck the eye lashes, but will have the opportunity to grow back
- Cryoepilation – a process which includes freezing the area of hair growth, to prevent regrowth

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- If the patient has clinical signs associated with **distichia** then removal of those eyelashes is pertinent to correct and prevent any further irritation or injury to the cornea.
- If manual epilation is performed, monitor your pet for recurrence of clinical signs that would indicate regrowth of the eyelashes.