

EYE PROBLEMS IN THE DACHSHUND

A. MICROPHthalmIA AND MULTIPLE OCULAR DEFECTS

Microphthalmia is a congenital defect characterized by a small eye often with associated defects of the cornea, anterior chamber, lens and/or retina.

An association has been made between partial albinism, multiple ocular defects (especially microphthalmia) and deafness in a number of canine breeds including the Dachshund. From these reports it appears that a predominantly white hair coat is associated with a higher incidence of ocular defects. Breeding advice: DO NOT BREED.

B. DISTICHIASIS

Eyelashes abnormally located in the eyelid margin which may cause ocular irritation. This might occur at any time in the life of a dog. It is difficult to make a strong recommendation with regard to breeding dogs with this entity. The hereditary basis has not been established, although it seems probable due to the high incidence in some breeds. Reducing the incidence is a logical goal. When diagnosed, distichiasis should be recorded; Breeding advice: DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

C. DERMOID

A dermoid is a focal area of normal epidermal tissue (skin) that forms in an abnormal location (usually the cornea, conjunctiva or eyelid). The lesion generally causes discomfort to the affected animal. Breeding advice: BREEDER'S OPTION.

D. PANNUS/CHRONIC SUPERFICIAL KERATITIS

A bilateral disease of the cornea which usually starts as a grayish haze to the ventral or ventrolateral cornea, followed by the formation of a vascularized sub-epithelial growth that begins to spread toward the central cornea; pigmentation follows the vascularization. If severe, vision impairment occurs. DO NOT BREED.

E. PUNCTATE KERATITIS

Focal circular rings usually affecting the central subepithelium and/or anterior portion of the cornea. There often is an associated dry eye with corneal erosions. The mode of inheritance is unknown. Breeding advice: DO NOT BREED.

F. CORNEAL DYSTROPHY--EPITHELIAL/STROMAL

A non-inflammatory corneal opacity (white to gray) present in one or more of the corneal layers. Corneal dystrophy implies a probable inherited basis and is usually bilateral. Breeding advice: BREEDER'S OPTION.

G. CORNEAL DYSTROPHY--ENDOTHELIAL

An abnormal loss of the inner lining of the cornea that causes progressive fluid retention (edema). With time the edema results in keratitis and decreased vision. Breeding advice: DO NOT BREED.

H. CATARACT

A partial or complete opacity of the lens and/or its capsule. In cases where cataracts

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are complete and affect both eyes, blindness results. The prudent approach is to assume cataracts to be hereditary except in cases known to be associated with trauma, other causes of ocular inflammation, specific metabolic diseases, persistent pupillary membrane, persistent hyaloid or nutritional deficiencies. Cataracts may involve the lens complete (diffuse) or in a localized region. Breeding advice: DO NOT BREED.

I. RETINAL ATROPHY--GENERALIZED (PRA)

A degenerative disease of the retinal visual cells which progresses to blindness. This abnormality, also known as progressive retinal atrophy or PRA, may be detected by electroretinogram before it is apparent clinically. In all breeds studied to date, retinal atrophy is recessively inherited. Breeding advice: DO NOT BREED.

J. MICROPAPILLA

Micropapilla refers to a small optic disc which is not associated with vision impairment. Optic nerve hypoplasia refers to a congenital defect of the optic nerve which causes blindness and abnormal pupil response in the affected eye. May be difficult to differentiate between micropapilla and optic nerve hypoplasia on a routine (dilated) screening ophthalmoscopic exam. Breeding advice: BREEDER'S OPTION.

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