Eye specialist

- What is an eye specialist?
  There are varying levels of qualification for vets. A vet at your local practice may have a special interest and have some extra training, and the RCVS ran a certificate scheme to train GPs to a higher level.
  To become a specialist requires 3-4 years of training with a mentor, publication of peer-reviewed articles and finally exams. A list of RCVS recognized specialists in the UK is available on the RCVS website.
  The BVA eye panellists are a group that have passed a further exam solely in identifying hereditary eye diseases in dogs. I am sure those of you involved in breeding are aware of the BVA/KC eye scheme and you can find more on the KC or BVA websites.

http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/specialist-status/rcvs-list-of-specialists/
http://www.ecvo.org/diplomates/diplomate-list
https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/Find-an-eye-panellist/

Anatomy of the eye

Flat-coated Retriever Breed Standard

Head
- Long & nicely moulded
- Skull, flat & moderately broad with a slight stop between eyes, avoiding a down or dish-faced appearance.

Eyes
- Medium size, dark brown or hazel, with a very intelligent expression (a round prominent eye highly undesirable).
- Not obliquely placed.

Hereditary eye conditions (BVA scheme)

- Schedule A:
  - Glaucoma (goniodysgenesis)
- Schedule B:
  - Progressive retinal atrophy

The Red Eye

When should we worry?

Georgina Fricker BVSc MRCVS CerVOphthal
DipECVO
RCVS and European Specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology
Causes of a red eye

- Conjunctivitis
- Dry eye
- Blepharitis
- Keratitis
  - Ulcerative
  - Non-ulcerative
- Uveitis
- Entropion
- Ectropion
- Distichiasis
- Ectopic cilium
- Orbital disease
- Glaucoma
- Cherry eye
- Kinked cartilage
- Foreign body
- Masses

The eye is red, but is it painful?
- Tears
- Squinting
- Rubbing the eye
- Sleeping more
- Head-shy
- Eating less

When should I call my vet?
- Redness for over 24 hours
- Discharge from the eye
- Clouding of the eye

Conjunctivitis
- Young dogs
- Allergic
- Immune-mediated
- Infectious
  - Bacteria
  - Viruses
  - Parasites
Blepharitis
- Allergic
- Immune-mediated
- Infectious
  - Bacterial
  - Parasitic
  - Neoplastic

Cherry eye
- Young dogs
- Familial
- Surgery needed
- Gland produces tears
  - Secondary dry eye

Entropion
- What is entropion?
  - Inward rolling of the eyelid
  - Haired skin contacts the cornea
  - Irritation and damage to the cornea

Does my dog need surgery?
- Eyelid disorders
  - Entropion
  - Ectropion
  - Distichiasis
- When do we operate?
  - Discomfort
  - Secondary corneal disease

What treatments are indicated?
- Tacking sutures – temporary solution
- Surgical correction
  - Evert the eyelid margin
  - Shorten an overlong eyelid
Ectropion

- What is ectropion?
  - Eyelid falls outward
  - Creates a pocket which gathers debris
  - Medial canthal pocket syndrome
  - What treatments are indicated?
    - Surgical correction
      - V to Y plasty
    - Shortening of overlong eyelid

Distichiasis

- Typically younger dogs
- Tears
- Increased blinking
- Sometimes visible hairs

Ectopic cilium

- Young dogs
- Recurrent discomfort
  - Tears
  - Increased blinking
  - Holding eye shut
- Corneal ulcer that won't heal

Orbit and Globe

- Foreign body
  - Stick
  - Grass seed
- Tooth root abscess
- Cellulitis
  - Inflammation
  - Infection
- Myositis

Orbital disease
MRI Scan

Glaucoma
- Primary
- Goniodysgenesis
- Secondary
  - Inflammation
  - Neoplastic

Gonioscopy
- Specialist technique
- Observe opening of ‘angle’
- Recommended every 3 years

AHT project
- See latest update on breed club website

Cornea
Keratitis
- Ulcerative
- Immune-mediated
- Infectious
- Neoplastic

Uveitis
- Traumatic
- Immune-mediated
- Infectious
- Neoplastic

Uveal Tract

Acute uveitis

Traumatic uveitis

Immune-mediated uveitis

Infectious uveitis

Neoplastic uveitis