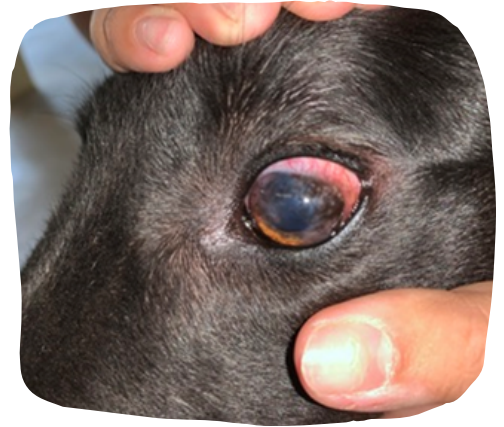


PANNUS DISEASE IN GREYHOUNDS

Pannus is an auto immune disorder that affects the eye and will eventually lead to blindness if it is not managed. It is thought to be genetic but can also be due to environmental factors including sun exposure. It is not painful in its early stages, causes no discharge and can be hard to detect. If it is not diagnosed or treated, the disease will slowly cover the cornea until the greyhound can no longer see.



It is common for pannus to occur in both eyes and start at about the same time. Symptoms generally start to appear at 2-5 years of age and starts as inflammation in the eye. The edge of the cornea can appear more pigmented than before and may have a hazy grey colour. As pannus progresses the lesions may appear as a brown pigment spreading across the surface of the eye or may appear as inflamed with a hazy pink colour. Small blood vessels may also be visible. The colour change will generally start at the outside edges of the eye and spread inwards until the entire eye surface is covered causing blindness. If these symptoms occur, consult your veterinarian for early intervention to slow the progression of the disease.

Pannus cannot be cured but treatment can prevent further damage to the eye. Daily medicated eyedrops can slow the progression of the pigmented lesions, prevent flare-ups, decrease inflammation, and suppress the immune response in the eye. Maxidex is a commonly used eye drop at GAP that can be prescribed and dispensed by your veterinarian.

There are some environmental management strategies that can be put in place to help prevent the progression of pannus:



- Avoid walking during extreme weather such as windy or dusty days, and during the brightest times of the day.
- Provide your greyhound with sunglasses/hats designed for dogs to assist with advanced pannus as they provide protection from the weather and UV rays.
- Limit time outside in the sun during the day and provide shaded areas.

Greyhounds with pannus live long and happy lives with appropriate treatment and management of the condition. The earlier the condition is diagnosed and treated, the better the outcome is, so please ensure you ask your vet to check for pannus at your regular check-up appointments.