

Rowe Referrals

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Rowe

Referrals

SCCED

spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect



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SCCED *spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect*

indolent ulcer / recurrent corneal ulceration

What is an indolent ulcer?

An indolent ulcer is a superficial, non-infected erosion of the surface of the eye (cornea), which may occur spontaneously. The characteristic features are loose edges of the ulcer and poor response to standard medical treatment in a dog which is usually 6-8 years or older.



Why does it occur?

The exact mechanism behind the development of indolent ulcers has not been determined in dogs.

Can both eyes be affected?

Yes, both eyes can be affected either simultaneously or consecutively, and recurrences are likely.

Are any breeds predisposed?

Any breed can be affected, however some breeds are more prone to this condition, including Boxers, West Highland White Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers.



What treatment options are available?

There are several treatment options available all of which involve removing the loose edges of the superficial layer of the cornea and `debriding` (rubbing off) the underlying layers to provide an adequate surface for new superficial cells to attach to. This may involve debriding the cornea with a so-called "diamond burr", or having to perform surgery using microsurgical instruments at high magnification.



What happens if I do nothing?

If left untreated, indolent ulcers won't heal and secondary complications, such as infection, may follow. This may cause permanent loss of vision or, in the worst case, the eye.

If you have any further questions regarding this or any other condition feel free to contact us.