



McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

A SEED IN THE EYE....OUCH!

Willow is a lovely, placid young female Golden Retriever who has a fantastic life exercising with her owner and riding with horses on farms and at the beach. One lucky canine.

Suddenly in January of this year, Willow developed a weepy, sore right eye. This quickly progressed to a sticky eye that had a continuous copious mucky green-yellow discharge visible. There was no cough or sneeze heard. Her left eye remained completely normal.

Despite intensive, appropriate treatment and investigation from Willow's primary vet, the discharge persisted. The right eye was now inflamed and irritated. Willow was still lively but wasn't quite herself and she would hold her right eye partially closed.

Willow was referred to Dr Steve Heap in mid – March. At the clinical exam, the yellow discharge could be seen "welling up" from Willow's lower right tear duct. As soon as the eye was cleaned more discharge would appear.

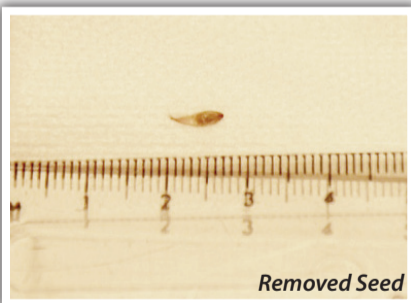
Apart from this infection of the lacrimal (tear drainage) system and the eye being inflamed there were no other problems detected. Infection of the tear drainage system is termed Dacryocystitis. Steve felt that the most likely cause of this was a foreign body – likely a vegetative foreign body e.g. a seed or barley grass awn that had entered the tear duct considering the terrain she frequents daily.

These can be very difficult and frustrating problems to solve at times. Under a general anaesthetic, Steve carefully put a catheter into the nose and into the exit of the nose end of the lacrimal system. This catheter was lodged firmly in place. The lower tear duct was partially opened. Water was flushed vigorously and copiously through this catheter. After about 10 mls of flushing, there was a blockage for period of 1-2 seconds.

On examination under an operating microscope, the end of a substantial seed was glimpsed. This was then grasped with forceps and removed!! A large "C'mon" was heard from the operating room as this was removed. The lower tear duct was then stitched carefully together.

Ten days post operatively, the right eye was still watery but there had been no mucky, infective discharge for the first time in over 2 months. The best thing was Willow was a lot happier, more energetic and playful than she had been and fully opening the eye. A great result all round and a very satisfying part of my job was being able to resolve the problem for Willow and her owner quickly and atraumatically.

Dr Steve Heap



No problem is too big or small for the vets at McMaster and Heap. If we can't fix the problem directly we make sure we will find out who can.



OPEN 7 DAYS

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