



CANINE CHRONIC SUPERFICIAL ULCER CHECKLIST

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STT both eyes

- Assesses for **Quantitative KCS**
- Should be >20mm/min in an ulcerated eye

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Tear film break-up time*

- Assesses for **Qualitative KCS**

*these can be hard to visualise with the naked eye and are much easier to examine with good magnification, such as a slit lamp.

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Eyelid examination

- Evidence of **distichia*** (along the eyelid margin)? Can cause issues in younger dogs, or in older dogs with concurrent KCS
- Evidence of **ectopic cilia***? (young dogs only, occur on the underside of the eyelid - often upper and central)
- Evidence of **entropion** post proxy-metacaine?

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Corneal exposure

- Do the eyelids **properly cover the cornea** when blinking, or does the dog sleep with its eyes open? (such as with bulgy-eyed breeds)
- Is the eye in a normal position (**retrobulbar issues**)?
- Is the eye enlarged and blind (**chronic glaucoma**)?

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Any infection on cytology?

- Rare, but can occasionally cause chronic ulceration

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Corneal lesions?

- Vascularisation that *came before* the ulceration can be a sign of **pannus**
- White, gritty deposits in older dogs could be **calcium**

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Any underrunning?

- Assesses for a **SCCED** when all else is ruled out (SCCEDs are a diagnosis of exclusion)

If you're unsure or struggling with an ulcer please refer the patient or seek ophthalmic advice.