

## Getting rid of eye stains

First you need to understand the source. Excessive tearing is what is causing the staining under your dog's eyes. Staining is easier to detect on dogs with light color fur (white or cream) and/or longer hair. However this does not mean that a dog with a dark coat does not have excessive tearing

Excessive tearing can occur as a result of irritation to your dog's eyes or because your dog's tears are not draining properly.

1. Just as your eye waters if a speck of dust blows into it, dogs' eyes will make tears when irritated to flush away anything harmful. When the eyes are continually irritated, this can lead to chronic tearing that produces stains. Conditions that might irritate the eye include dog eye infections, glaucoma, and eyelash or eyelid problems. Strongly recommend you see a vet to ensure none of these are occurring which can be properly treated
2. Then there are drainage or plugged tear glands. There are small holes that drain tears away from the eye and down the throat. A variety of dog eye problems can affect this drainage, causing excessively watery eyes. These conditions include:
  - **Shallow eye sockets.** If the eye sockets aren't big or deep enough, tears can spill out onto the fur around the eyes.
  - **Eyelids that are turned inward.** If the eyelids roll in toward the eyeball, the drainage holes for tears (called puncta) may become blocked. There are surgical options to correct this
  - **Hair growth around the eye.** If hair grows too close to the eye, it can wick tears away from the eye and onto the face. You or your groomer can keep the hair around the eyes trimmed
  - **Blocked tear drainage holes (puncta).** Previous dog eye infections or eye damage can cause scar tissue to form that blocks some of the drainage passages for tears. There is medication to try first otherwise surgery may be required

In any case should you find your dog squinting or rubbing their eye(s) get him to a veterinarian immediately