Background

- Tears from the ocular surface are drained from the eye through several important structures collectively known as the nasolacrimal apparatus (NLA). This frequently becomes blocked and sometimes infected leading to discomfort, tear staining, eye discharge, and skin inflammation, all of which are associated with a decreased quality of life. Clinically, NLA obstructions can be very frustrating to treat and can often lead to permanent obstruction. The purpose of this study is to examine the efficacy of stenting as a method to treat nasolacrimal apparatus obstructions.

EXCITING NOTE - To date, our team has successfully cannulated the nasolacrimal duct of five dogs referred for NLA obstruction. The owners of all five cases reported a complete resolution of signs.

Participation Requirements

- Dogs demonstrating signs of nasolacrimal apparatus (NLA) blockage

Procedures

- Physical examination
- CT scan of the NLA
- NLA stenting using endoscopy and fluoroscopy (stent will be left in for approximately 6 weeks)
- CT scan after stent removal
- Owner questionnaire (pre- and post-stenting procedure)

Owner Responsibilities

- Covering all costs except those associated with the repeat CT scan following stent removal
- Bringing your dog to the VMTH for all scheduled appointments including a follow-up visit at least 6-8 weeks after the procedure
- Completing questionnaires prior to and after the NLA stenting procedure

Benefits

- The study will subsidize costs associated with the second CT scan.
- It is possible (but not assured) that your pet will have reduction or resolution of signs associated with NLA obstruction.
- Information acquired during this study will allow us to advance the treatment for NLA blockage for veterinary patients worldwide.