

Primary Glaucoma.

This canine disease of the eye is caused by the fluid (Aqueous Humor) behind the cornea not draining away. This is due to an abnormality with the drainage system (filtration angle) and pressure builds. This is the most common cause.

Commonly both eyes can be affected but can be only one.

Signs & Symptoms:-

Early signs and symptom of Glaucoma can mimic other eye problems.

The following are what may be seen-

- Redness, Cloudiness of the eye when you look directly at it, bulging of the eye, dilated pupil and loss of vision.
- The dog may be seen to squint and rub the eye in an attempt to relieve the pain and irritation. If in extreme pain, there may be aggression in a dog that this is not normally so.
- They could be panting, shivering and in severe cases the pain can make the dog vomit.
- Chronic or long standing Glaucoma can result in a bulging enlarged eye. The Cornea (front covering of the eye) may appear to have a bluish grey colour. As the eye enlarges further damage is done to the internal structure of the eye.

Prognosis:-

Glaucoma is considered by the veterinary world to be an emergency. If treatment is started early – normal vision can be maintained for a while.

If undiagnosed or treatment is delayed, then loss of vision can result.

Even with correct, early treatment vision can be lost over a few days or can be over a couple of years. Pain has to be monitored carefully.

Treatments:-

Often starts with eye drops to help reduce the eye pressure, but often long term are not effective as in humans suffering from this condition. Some drops may be prescribed to help reduce production of the Aqueous fluid. Other treatments that may be offered are cryosurgery (Freezing), antibiotic injections into the eye (usually recommended when the eye has lost vision), laser surgery - all these aim to destroy the “Ciliary body” that produces the fluid in the eye. Occasionally a small drainage tube can be implanted or surgically create a small flap to enable the fluid to drain away.

If the dog's pain is obvious and the sight in the eye is non-existent or diminishing the humane procedure offered by most Veterinarians is removal of the eye and suturing the eye lid shut. Most dogs cope very well with only one eye. The problem with this disease is that if both eyes are affected and loss of vision is sudden for the dog they may not cope well to begin with but given time many do learn to cope. It may be more difficult for the older dog but all should be given some time to see if they can adjust as many do.

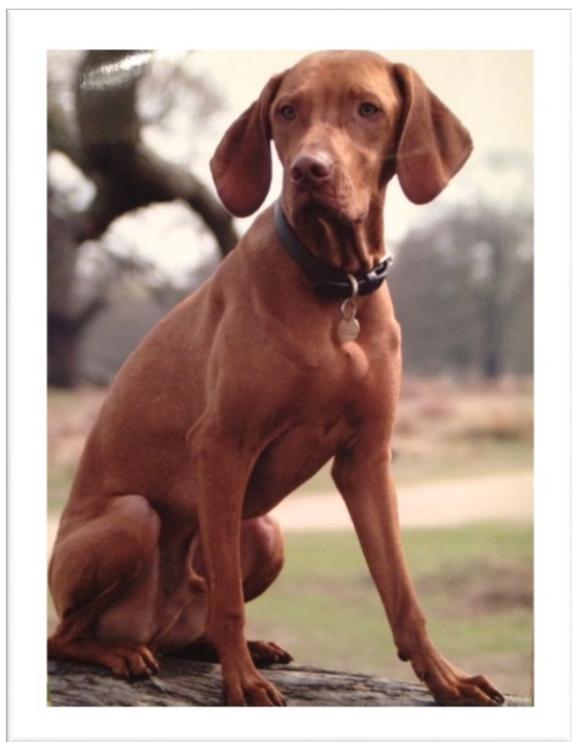
As with all genetically caused eye problems it is recommended they are not bred from.

In Hungarian Vizslas we are on the "At risk Register" that means it is known in the breed, so the responsible course of action is to test all our breeding stock before they are used. It may be a small problem now, but we must all make sure it remains that way and do our best to eliminate it if possible. Really there is no excuse as we do have a test for this condition.

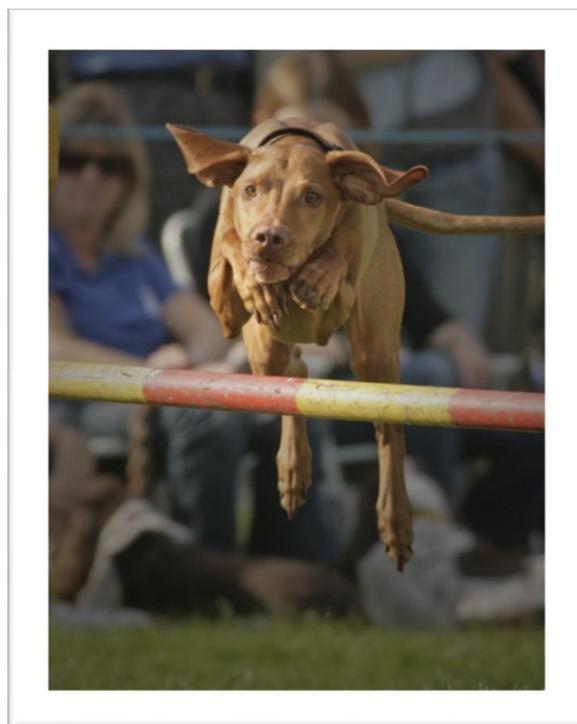
The cost of surgery and after care for this dog was well over £8,000 - money that many may not be able to afford for their beloved family member- and the only course of action could be Euthanasia to prevent the animal suffering extreme pain.

Primary Glaucoma is different to Secondary Glaucoma.

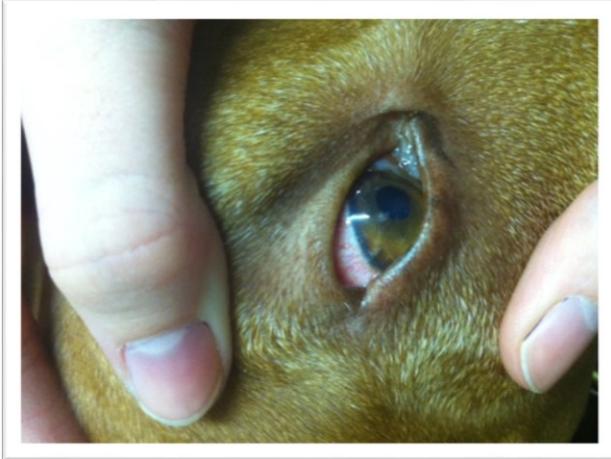
The pictures of the dog that accompanies this small description show what can happen to dogs that develop this serious eye condition.



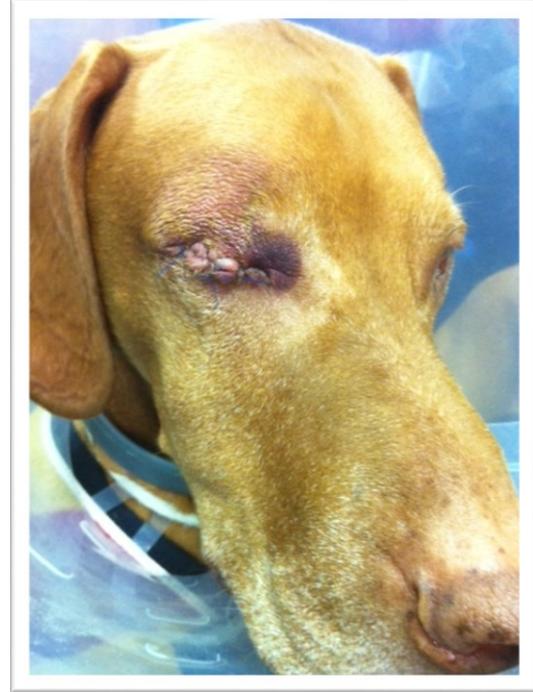
Pre Glaucoma age 12 months



Pre Glaucoma enjoying his agility



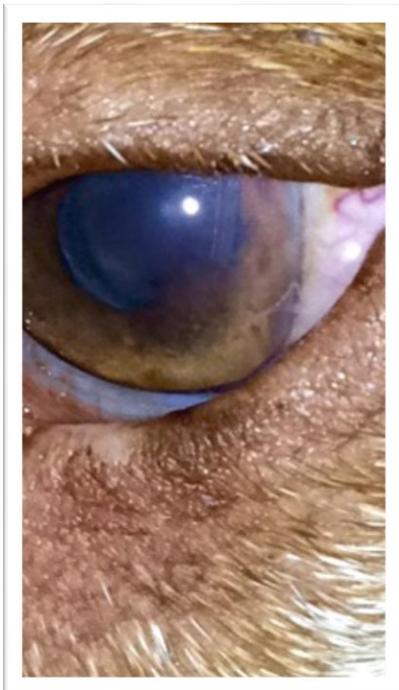
Right eye: 2 days before developing Glaucoma showing inflammation and redness of sclera.



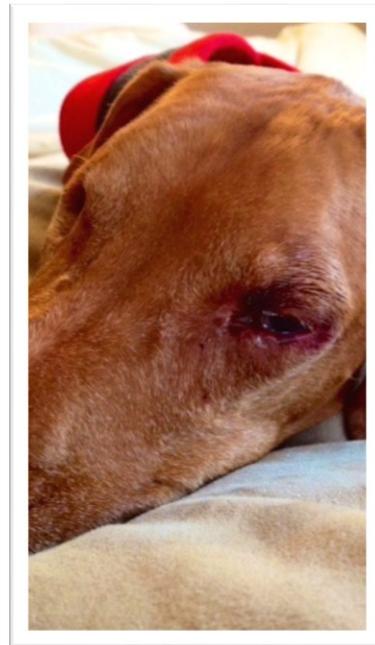
1 day post enucleation of right eye
3 weeks after failed endolaser surgery
Nov 2011.

Left eye:

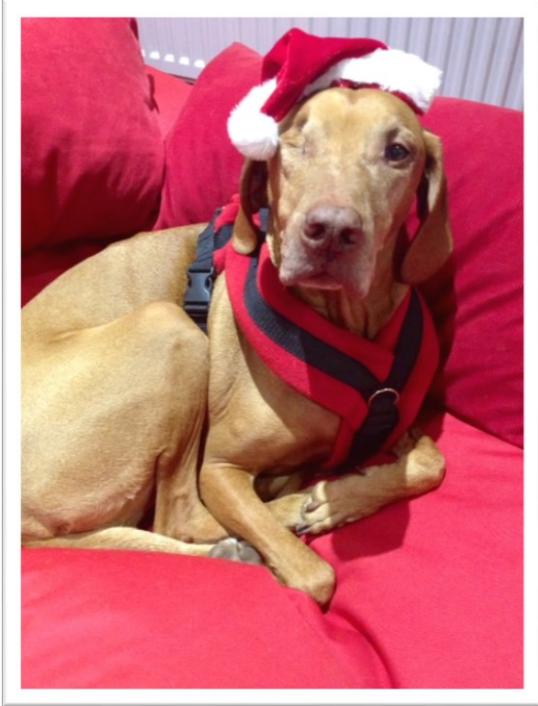
- Sept 4th developed Glaucoma
- Endolaser surgery failed to control the pressure again hence shunt surgery



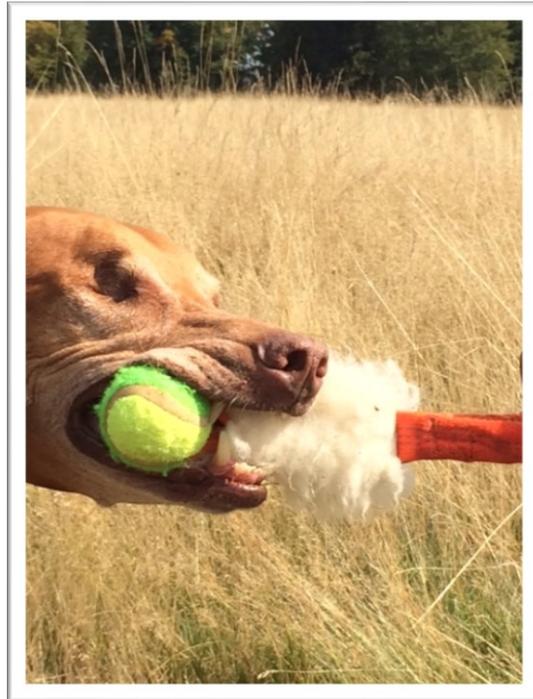
Left eye post shunt surgery.



3 weeks post shunt – severe Intraocular
Haemorrhage due to treatment to clear Fibrin
post op.



2 months post-surgery to the left eye



Still happily enjoying life



Still happily enjoying life



Enjoying Cornish Holiday 2014

It really should be every breeders responsibility to have their dogs certified clear of this awful illness before they use their dogs for breeding.

Sue Millson (Breed Health Coordinator).