## Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the eyelid and eye and can be caused by a cold, infection, allergy, irritation from pollutants, a foreign body, windburn or exposure to too much sun. The normal remedies for humans work well for animals with the same indications and can help to reduce inflammation.

<u>Aconite</u> is for inflammation after injury, removal of foreign object, or exposure to cold wind. Sudden onset of symptoms with dry, sore, burning eyes. <u>Allium</u> is indicated when the eyes are swollen and red with acrid, burning discharge and accompanied by sneezing. <u>Apis</u> may



help swollen, shiny, puffy eyes. They are red, watery and stinging; with whites inflamed, reddened and bloodshot. <u>Belladonna</u> sudden onset of symptoms; the eyes are bloodshot, red, staring and glassy with dilated pupils. <u>Euphrasia</u> is helpful for profuse hot, burning tears with red lids, thick yellow pus from the inner corner and lots of blinking. <u>Nat mur</u> is useful for a blocked duct, ulceration, and inflammation with red sore lids and a constant desire to rub at the eyes. <u>Pulsatilla</u> for profuse yellowish green bland discharge especially on waking; the eyelashes stick together.

In addition remember that cats with cat flu may have conjunctivitis as a symptom, maybe with the odd sneeze as well, so use the remedy that fits the symptoms plus <u>Cat flu 30c</u> as well. Sometimes cats who have been in a fight and have a scratched eye can have a mucky eye. This may develop into an abscess over the next day or so and may need surgery to drain, so always give <u>Ledum</u> or <u>Hypericum</u> as well as the indicated remedy if you suspect a fight, it could save the cat needing surgery.

Many dogs with conjunctivitis are liver toxic – as the Chinese say, "the liver opens through the eye", so don't feed dried dog food and don't use flea chemicals or vaccines unless they are needed. <u>Nux vomica, Lycopodium</u> and <u>Hepar sulph</u> are good liver clearing remedies if indicated by other symptoms.

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