In brief

Congenital keratoconjunctivitis sicca and ichthyosiform dermatosis (CKCSID), also called “dry eye, curly coat syndrome”, is a congenital disorder affecting Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. The disorder causes eye, nail, skin, and dental problems. CKCSID is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait.

Clinical overview

Clinical signs of CKCSID are observable from birth. An affected puppy is smaller than littermates and has a rough, curly coat with hairless patches. The skin of an affected puppy is dry, itchy, and flaky with scales especially along the backbone. Abdominal skin becomes hyperpigmented and hyperkeratinised later in adulthood. The skin on the footpads and nails can slough and make standing and walking painful for affected dogs. Affected dogs are also predisposed to dental disease. Reduced aqueous tear production causes inflammation and mucoid discharge in the eyes. In some severe cases ulceration of the cornea may occur. Other possible clinical signs include painful nail growth abnormalities, hyperkeratinised footpads, and various oral or dental problems. There is no cure for the condition but supportive care may help improve the dog’s quality of life. Some dogs may respond favorably to lacrimostimulant therapy, although in one study the results of those treatments had no significant effect based on the Schirmer tear test 1 results. The dermatological manifestations of the syndrome are difficult to ameliorate.

References

Online database
Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals, OMIA (http://omia.angis.org.au/). Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney.

Scientific articles
