

## Eye Tacking

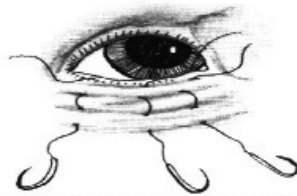
By Jeff Vidt, DVM

Puppies open their eyes at about 7 - 10 days of age. In Shar-Pei, this is often when the first symptoms of entropion appear. Typically the puppies open their eyes, but quickly they begin squinting and closing them. Often there is a mucous eye discharge and these puppies usually don't eat well or gain weight like their littermates. EYETACKING is a temporary measure in which sutures (stitches) are placed in the eye lids to roll the lids "out" of the eyeball. Often this can be done without anesthesia in very young puppies (2-4 weeks of age). Sometimes gas anesthesia is used. Nylon sutures are placed in the eyelids which opens the eyes. I usually use 4-0 nylon with a small cutting needle like a CS-1). Often an antibiotic eye ointment is dispensed to help heal any corneal ulcers and prevent secondary bacterial infections. These sutures are left in place for as long as possible - up to 4 weeks in some cases. The tacks can be replaced as needed until a permanent repair procedure can be done. If the sutures loosen up or are causing problems, they can be removed. Eye tacking can result in permanent repair of entropion, but its primary goal is to prevent serious eye damage until the pup is old enough to undergo permanent entropion repair - around 6-8 months of age. Puppies who have their eyes tacked may or may not need permanent entropion repair later on - there is not much correlation between the two.

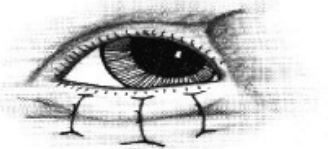
**ENTROPION IN YOUNG PUPPIES CAN RESULT IN CORNEAL ULCERATION AND IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY - SEE YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY!**



*Appearance of lower lid entropion in a Chinese Shar-Pei. All four lids may be affected.*



*Insertion of the vertical mattress sutures. The first bite is taken near the lid margin.*



*The sutures are tied, with the knots away from the eye. The suture can be removed after 10 to 14 days. If they loosen or pull out, replace as necessary.*

(Many thanks to Jo Ann Redditt for allowing me to use illustrations from her book "Understanding the Chinese Shar-Pei" published by Orient Publications, P.O. Box 6468, Arlington, VA 22206)

*Dr. Linda Tintle and Dr. Jeff Vidt maintain web sites full of information about the Chinese Shar-Pei. They can be found at [www.wvc.vetsuite.com](http://www.wvc.vetsuite.com) and [www.drjvw.com](http://www.drjvw.com) Dr. Vidt has a "Vets Only Section" of his web site. Vets can click on his link to find instructions on how to get into the area for vets only.*