



Shelter Spotlight

By Kit Belcher, Executive Director

When Your Pet Has Bloodshot or Watery Eyes

Bloodshot or watery eyes are a common occurrence in cats and dogs for the simple reason that they are energetic, curious creatures that approach the world head first! They don't always have time to duck or blink when running face-first through high grass, under branches, or under the bed. Even a little scratch or irritation in the eye can cause major redness or watering, not just for an hour or two, but sometimes for a few days.

Watering sometimes occurs if the conjunctiva -- a thin layer of tissue covering the inside of the eyelids -- gets irritated. These are like third eyelids that protect eyes from foreign objects. Sometimes, bits of wood, specs of dust or other debris gets trapped under the lid, making the eye sore or irritated. If only one eye is bloodshot, you can suspect this is the cause because it is so common. Too much sun and wind (from riding with car windows open) allergy, irritating dust or smog in the air, trauma, or infection can also irritate the conjunctiva and cause excessive tearing.

If both eyes are bloodshot, there's probably something else going on. For example, pets with allergies will sometimes get red, watery eyes. When both eyes are tearing and the liquid is clear, there is a good chance that your pet has allergies similar to hay fever in humans. If it starts at the change of season, you have good reason to suspect an allergy, especially if there are other signs like red eyes and itchy ears.

A more serious cause of watery or red eyes is when the cornea gets scratched. Corneal scratches are painful and your pet may squint to shut out painful light. In addition, pets with glaucoma will often squint to block out light and may have watery eyes as well.

In cats, watery eyes may be caused by viral infections like feline respiratory disease. If it's serious, watery eyes may be accompanied by other symptoms like sneezing, drooling or a loss of appetite.

Watery eyes are not always a problem. Certain short-faced breeds like miniature poodles or Persian cats have bulging eyes and need extra tears to keep their eyes moist. If your dog or cat appears to produce a lot of tears, it may be because of their breed or the way their head is constructed. Sometimes tears run down their faces instead of along the tear canal.

According to animal experts, you should consult your veterinarian if:

- Pet is squinting
- Dog has been riding with head outside the window
- Bloodshot eyes and itchy ears

- Won't quit scratching or pawing at eyes
- Eyes have turned blue, gray or cloudy, has trouble getting around
- Eyes are frequently bloodshot or dry
- Watery or discolored discharge for more than 48 hours
- Eyelids swollen or unable to close eyes
- A growth on the eye or eyelid
- Pet seems light sensitive
- Eyes are droopy or sunken

At Beltrami Humane Society, our featured pets this week are "Rudy" and "Tex". "Rudy" is a 4 year old purebred, male German Shepherd with registration paperwork. He is neutered, and has been through Obedience Training. He has had his basic kennel vaccinations. He came to our shelter from Illinois as his owner could no longer keep him. He has been trained with underground fencing and therefore, does not leave his yard. He knows many commands and is also a great "watch dog". He is a dominant dog and would do better as an only dog in a household; however, he does get along fairly well with other dogs (preferably female). He also has been around cats. He prefers his own food dish when eating. He enjoys going with his owner to run errands around town and or cross country. He enjoys going out on the trails for long walks or runs. He is fully housetrained and has been an indoor dog most of his life. He will need a large yard to exercise in when he goes out to play. He loves toys, especially basketballs. "Tex" is an 8 year old purebred-neutered, male German Shepherd. He (like Rudy) has lived most of his life indoors. He has been through Obedience Training and has had his basic kennel vaccinations. His past owners were senior citizens and after one of them passed away and the other moved to a Nursing Home, he was brought up from Texas with a relative and surrendered to our humane society. Tex does know how to "open gates". He is not fond of other dogs, is a very dominant dog, but a very good boy. He is somewhat afraid of "thunder storms" but enjoys being out on the trails. He has not been around children a lot. He would do well as an only dog in a senior's household. He is completely housetrained and loves to ride in vehicles. He comes with his own bed.

Visit Rudy and Tex at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN. Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. They can also be seen on our website photo gallery along with our other animals up for adoption at www.beltramihumane.com or on www.petfinder.com. Call us with any questions at (218) 751-7910, see photos of our pets at your friendly Walmart Store, (we are participants of the Very Best Pet Network), see our "Pets of the Month" at your local Pamida, hear about our "Pet of the Week" on KKBJ Mix 103 (early show).

A special "thank you" to "The Home Depot and Jeremy Hayes, Manager" for the recent donation of \$250.00 towards fencing and building supplies for the Beltrami Humane Society. Thank you for your support of the animals"

Don't miss "Volunteer Training" which will be conducted today, (at the Humane Society) Saturday, 1-2 p.m. Our animals welcome not only the "time spent with them," but the love and affection given to them as they wait to go to their new homes.

Shelter Wishes: Cat Food, Dog Food, Kitten Chow, Puppy Chow, Laundry Supplies, Animal Foster Home Parents and Spay/Neuter \$\$\$\$.