

Weepy Eyes in Rabbits

Overview

- Rabbit can develop weepy eyes for many different reasons, and it's a symptom that is nearly always a sign of a problem (even if the discharge is clear).
- The most common causes of weepy eyes include dental problems, tear duct disease, eye infections injuries, and irritation.
- Book an appointment with your vet if your rabbit has weepy eyes, even if they seem ok in themselves - the sooner the problem is treated the better.

General information and causes



This rabbit has a shiny, healthy eye with no weeping.

If your rabbit has weepy eyes, or wet fur surrounding their eyes, this indicates a problem, even if the discharge is clear. Common causes of weepy eyes in rabbits include:

- **Dental disease** - a rabbit's teeth sit very close to their eyes, so any problems with them (especially overgrowth) often affect the eyes.

- **Dacryocystitis** (tear duct problems) - the tear ducts are tiny tubes that drain tears from the eyes (into the nose). If a tear duct becomes blocked, inflamed or infected, the eyes will weep.
- **Eye infections** - often cause a thick sticky discharge.
- **Respiratory infections** - such as 'snuffles' caused by the Pasteurella germ often cause a weepy eye.
- **Eyelid and eyelash problems**
- **Eye injuries and irritation** - caused by anything from fighting with another rabbit, or a grass seed in the eye, to living in a dusty environment.

When to contact your vet

Rabbits instinctively try to hide pain (because they are prey animals), so it's important to contact your vet if you notice they have weepy eyes, even if they appear ok in him/herself.

[Find out more about PDSA's veterinary services](#)

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