

THE PET CONNECTION

By Deb Waldron, Owner Pampered Paws Salon

Pet Tear Stains, Is There Any Way To Get Rid Of Them?!

OK, I've been a dog groomer for over 30 years, and hands down the number one concern of pet owners that does not seem to have a solution is the problem of tear stains on a dog's (or cat's) face. I have known and tried many products that claim to do the trick, but none of them have worked. Of course we are not looking for something that just covers the stain up or bleaches it out, we want an answer that eliminates the problem at it's source. And that's a good place to start, just what is the source of pet tear stains?

There are several causes of Epiphora, the disease characterized by excessive tearing and the subsequent classic red/brown staining. In some cases it is a genetic predisposition, or it can be a blocked tear duct, or even a compromised immune system. Constant dampness below the eye encourages a low grade red yeast infection. Gram positive bacteria, interacting with this yeast, causes the classic red/brown staining. While antibiotics could help treat this condition it is not a practical solution since it would not be wise to keep your pet on antibiotics it's whole life.

There is a popular pet tear stain treatment on the market called Angel Eyes, whose active ingredient is indeed an antibiotic called Tylosin. Aside from the possible negative consequences of constantly feeding your dog or cat antibiotics, none of my customers have had success with this product. So, is there any other way to treat the nasty combination of bacteria and yeast that causes pet tear staining without the use of antibiotics? Well maybe

I recently stumbled across a tear stain product that employs the use of natural ingredients to fight bacteria and yeast. I want to clarify that I have not tested this product myself, but thought that those of you who have yet to win the battle with pet tear stains might want to give this a try. The product is called Tidy Tears, and it is a food supplement made by a company called Primalix. I am in no way affiliated with this company, nor do I benefit in any way from sharing this information with you, except perhaps to help you to solve your pet tear stain problem!

Tidy Tears uses organic Grape Seed Extract (GSE) and tea tree oil, which are natural broad spectrum destroyers of bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. Especially important is the fact that they are effective against gram positive bacteria, the specific type of bacteria which causes Epiphora. Tea tree oil also has anti-inflammatory, disinfectant, analgesic, and wound healing properties. Interestingly there are also four organic herbs in Tidy Tears which the company claims have been chosen to aid your pet's body in achieving overall wellness. They are Dandelion Root, Burdock Root, Astragalus, and Echinacea. (This product is not recommended for pets with auto immune diseases, or animals on immune suppressing drugs.)

The company stands behind the \$39.00 price with a money back guarantee. And for any of you interested in giving Tidy Tears a try the website URL is <http://www.natural-wonder-pets.com/dog-tear-stains.html> I would be interested to hear if any of you have success with this product. For those of you who are not feeling adventurous there are still a couple of things you

can do to reduce your pet's tear staining. Remember that the cause of Epiphora begins with a yeast infection that grows in the damp environment under your pet's tearing eyes. Anything you can do to keep that area dry is going to reduce the chance of this yeast getting a good hold. That means wiping your pet's eyes with a soft DRY cloth many times a day. Also, the less hair in the corner of the eyes the better, so be sure to have a groomer keep hair around your pet's eyes clipped short.

I don't know if Tidy Tears is a miracle cure for pet tear staining, but the ingredients make sense from a pathology point of view. By the way, if any of you HAVE found a solution to your pet's tear stain problem would you please share it with the rest of us! Seriously, you can email me at: Debbie@PamperedPawsSalon.com