

# Bovine Ocular Surgery

## Third Eyelid Removal



**1** An adenoma of the third-eyelid gland protrudes above the dorsal margin of the third eyelid. The surgical site is prepared and draped. A wire lid speculum aids exposure of the nictitans during the procedure.



**2** Gently grasp the dorsal margin of the third eyelid with small hemostats or Bishop Harmon-toothed forceps. Pull the third eyelid up and outward; this makes the tumor more easily observed. Position and clamp a curved hemostat below the mass halfway across the base of the third eyelid at the most ventral region of the third eyelid; this minimizes postoperative hemorrhage.



**3** Position and clamp a second curved hemostat opposite the first hemostat, such that the base of the third eyelid is completely clamped.



**4** Use a no. 15 blade to incise the third eyelid along the hemostats.

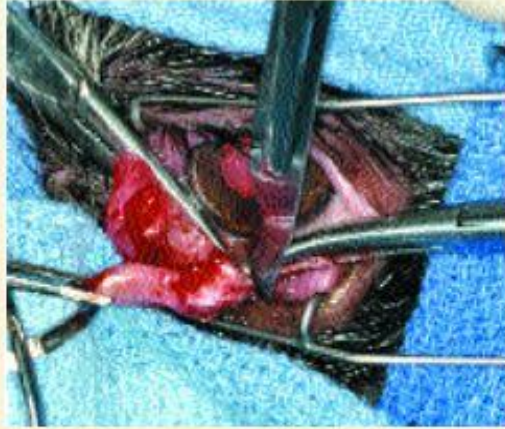
### PROCEDURE PEARL

Surgical removal of the third eyelid is strictly reserved for neoplasia of the nictitans and its gland or for traumatic injury severe enough to interfere with function of the nictitans and globe; removal for "cherry eyes" or cosmetic reasons is inappropriate.

### PROCEDURE PEARL

The free margin of the third eyelid alone may be removed, and the rest of the nictitans and its gland preserved, in surgical therapy of small nictitans tumors that involve only the margin.

INDICATION



**5**

Continue the incision along the hemostats to remove the glandular tumor and third eyelid.



**6**

Continue the incision from the other side.



**7**

Leave the hemostats clamped for 2 to 3 minutes after nictitans removal.



**8**

The conjunctival area at the base of the third eyelid can be carefully sutured with 5-0 Vicryl, or not sutured and left to granulate. Postoperative hemorrhage is minor in my experience but can be controlled with pressure and light cautery. Topical antibiotics are indicated for 5 to 7 days after surgery. ■