

TRIAGING CANINE OPHTHALMIC EMERGENCIES

*An introduction to
identifying and interpreting
common manifestations of
canine ocular pain.*

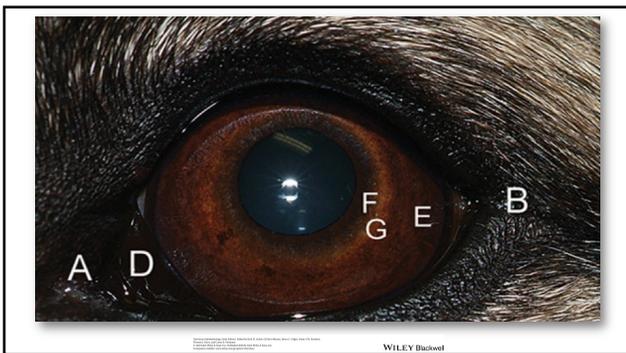
Genia Bercovitz, VMD, DACVO
Genia.Bercovitz@vca.com
Winterfest 2026

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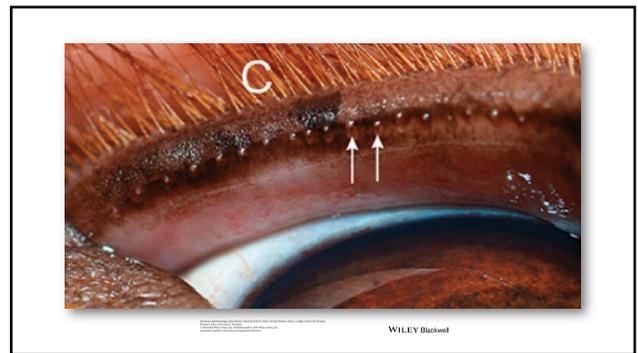
PRESENTATION CONTENTS

1. Ophthalmic anatomy review
2. Common manifestations of ocular pain noticed by clients
3. Localizing the concern within the eye and identifying differentials
4. Review

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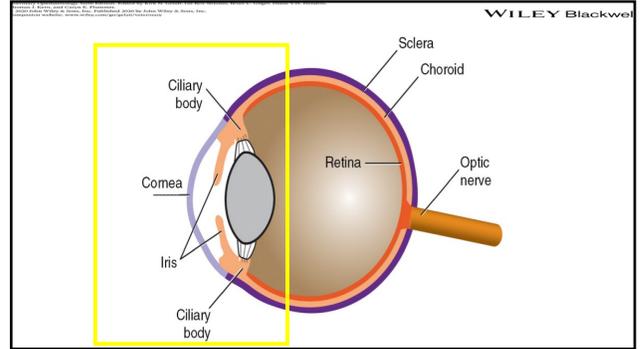
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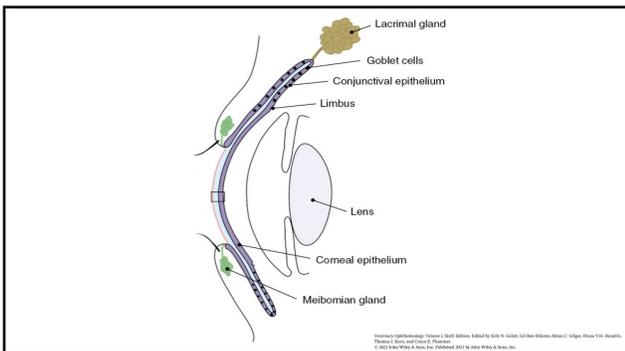
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PRESENTATION CONTENTS

1. Ophthalmic anatomy review
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3. Localizing the concern within the eye and identifying differentials
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COMMON OBSERVATIONS OF OCULAR DISCOMFORT

- The eye looks red
- The eye is bulging
- The eye is leaking/weeping
- They are pawing at their eye

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“THE EYE LOOKS RED”

Questions to ask:

1. Where on the eye is it red – eyelid, what is normally the white of the eye, surface of the eye, etc.?
2. How long has this change been going on?
3. What was the dog doing just prior to this change being noted?
4. Are there any other changes to the eye?

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”

Questions to ask:

1. Can your dog blink their eyelids?
2. Have there been any changes in vision?
3. Have there been any changes in activity level?
4. Are they having difficulty eating their hard food or chewing on their toys?
5. How long has this change been going on?
6. What was the dog doing just prior to this change being noted?

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“THE EYE IS LEAKING/WEEPING”

Questions to ask:

1. What is the color and consistency of the discharge?
2. How often are you needing to clean around the eye?
3. How long have you noticed this change?

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“THEY ARE PAWING AT THEIR EYE”

Questions to ask:

1. How long has this change been going on?
2. When are they pawing at their eye?
3. Has your dog undergone any surgeries around the eye recently?

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PRESENTATION CONTENTS

1. Ophthalmic anatomy review
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“THE EYE LOOKS RED”

Potential affected areas of the eye:

- Eyelid
- Conjunctiva
- Cornea
- Anterior chamber

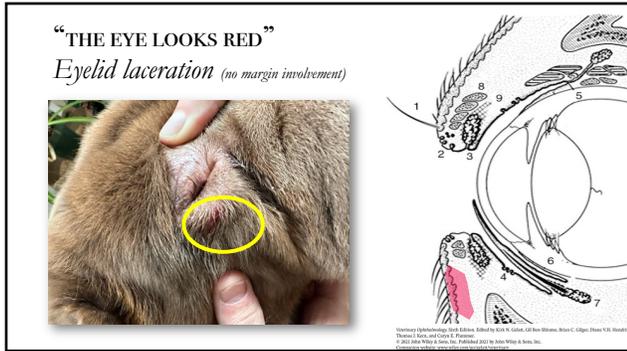
Because of the number of areas that could be red, having an owner send a photo of the eye can be helpful.

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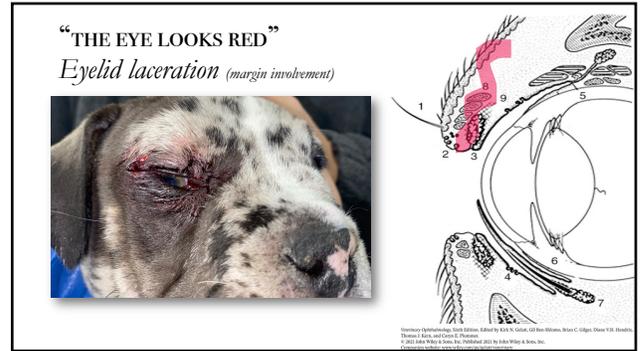
“THE EYE LOOKS RED”

- Eyelid
 - *Eyelid laceration*
 - *Eyelid mass*
- Conjunctiva
- Cornea
- Anterior chamber

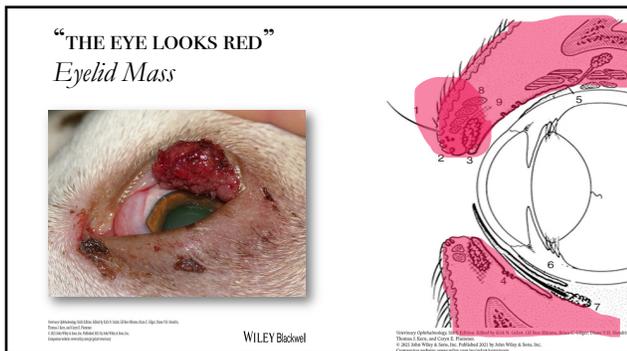
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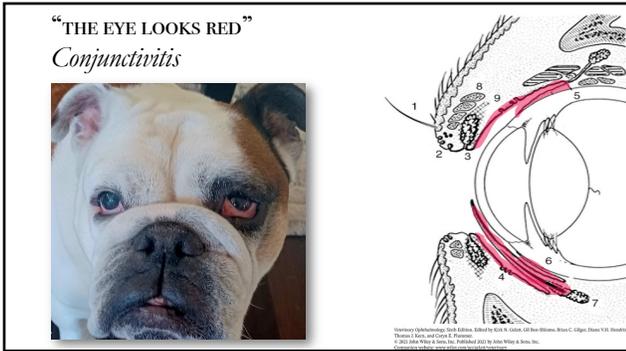


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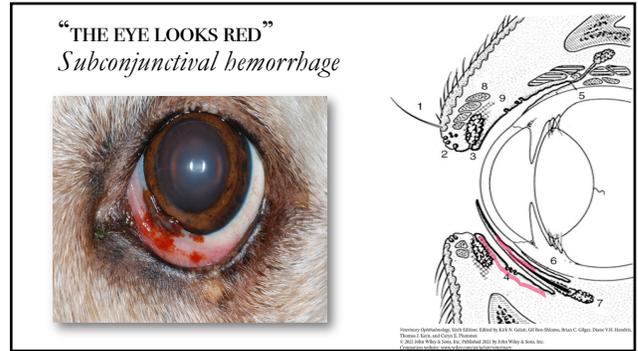
“THE EYE LOOKS RED”

- Eyelid
- Conjunctiva
 - Conjunctivitis
 - Subconjunctival hemorrhage
- Cornea
- Anterior chamber

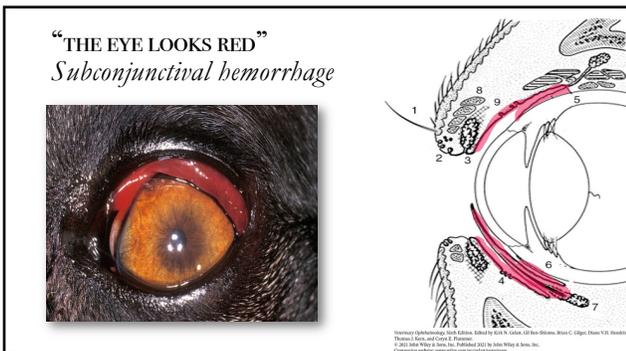
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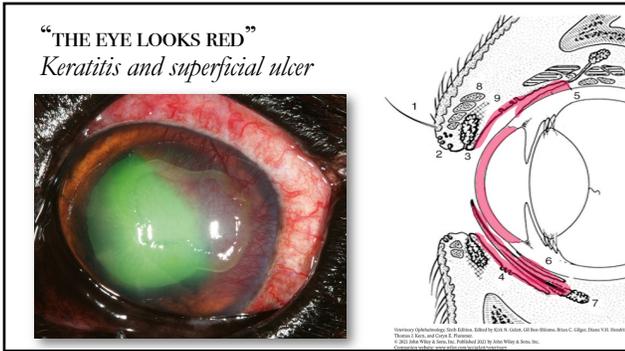


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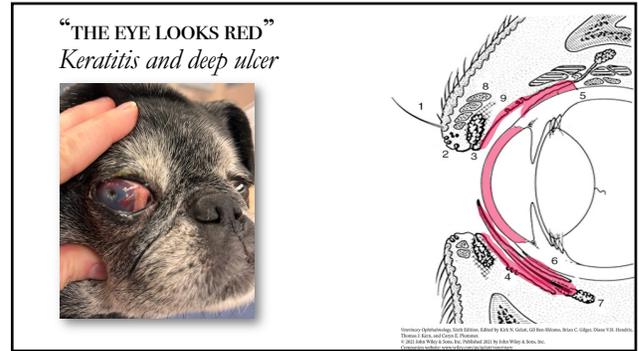
“THE EYE LOOKS RED”

- Eyelid
- Conjunctiva
- Cornea
 - Keratitis
- Anterior chamber

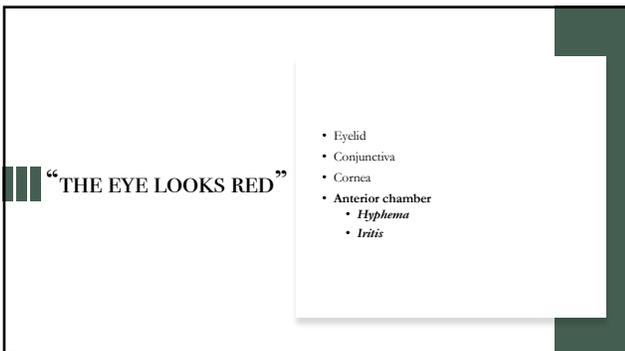
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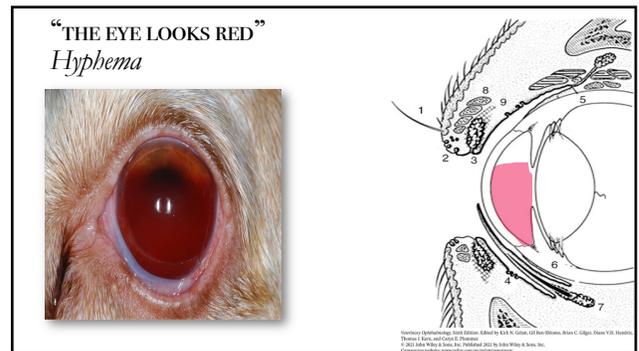
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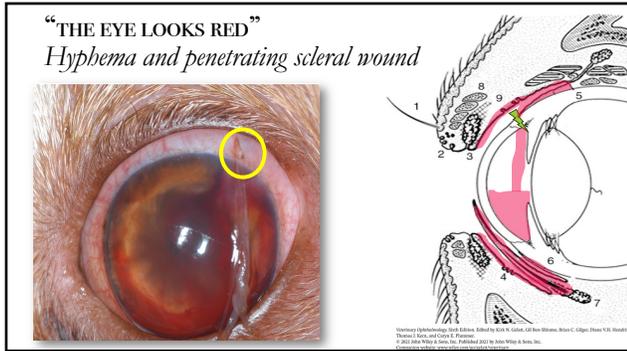
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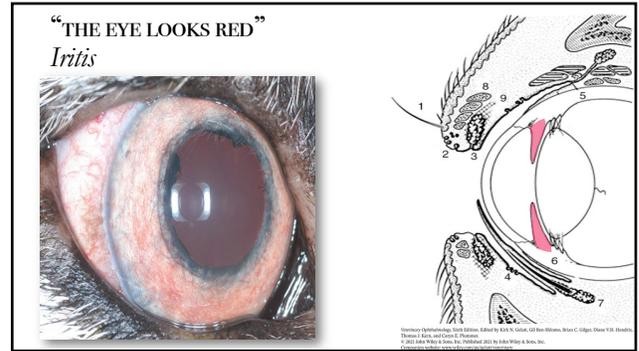
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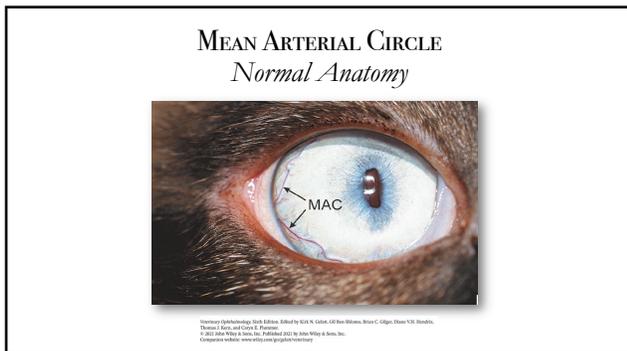
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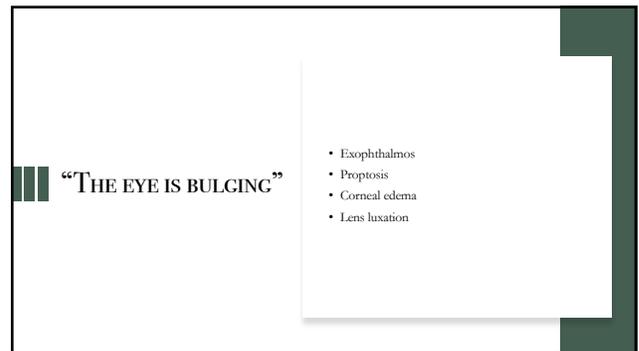
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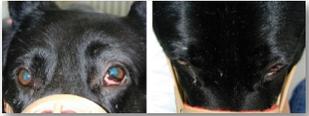
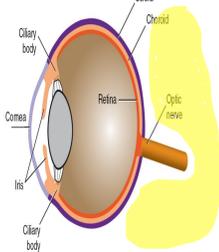


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“THE EYE IS BULGING”
Exophthalmos

Handbook of Ophthalmology, Sixth Edition, Edited by Keith N. Gelzin, Giff Blair Williams, Brian C. Gilger, Diana V. H. Hendrix, Thomas J. Ryan, and Carol E. Pappas
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BUPHTHALMOS
implies chronicity



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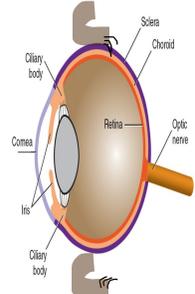
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“THE EYE IS BULGING”

- Exophthalmos
- **Proptosis**
- Corneal edema
- Lens luxation

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”
Proptosis

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”

- Exophthalmos
- Proptosis
- **Corneal edema**
- Lens luxation

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”
Corneal edema

This slide features two clinical photographs on the left showing a horse's eye with a significantly swollen and hazy cornea. On the right is a detailed anatomical diagram of the eye's anterior chamber, with a blue shaded area representing the edematous cornea. The diagram includes numbered labels for various structures: 1 (eyelid), 2 (conjunctiva), 3 (cornea), 4 (iris), 5 (lens), 6 (vitreous body), 7 (retina), 8 (ciliary muscle), and 9 (aqueous humor).

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”

- Exophthalmos
- Proptosis
- Corneal edema
- **Lens luxation**

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“THE EYE IS BULGING”
Anterior lens luxation

This slide features two clinical photographs on the left showing a horse's eye with a displaced lens. On the right is an anatomical diagram of the eye, with yellow circles highlighting the lens and its position within the anterior chamber, indicating its displacement from the normal position. The diagram includes numbered labels for various structures: 1 (eyelid), 2 (conjunctiva), 3 (cornea), 4 (iris), 5 (lens), 6 (vitreous body), 7 (retina), 8 (ciliary muscle), and 9 (aqueous humor).

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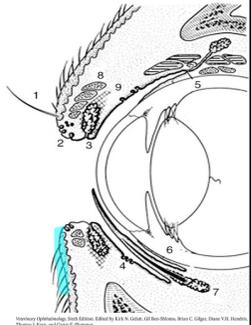
“THE EYE IS LEAKING/ WEEPING”

- Epiphora
- Corneal perforation

Because of the variation in the degree of discharge, photos can be very helpful in this case.

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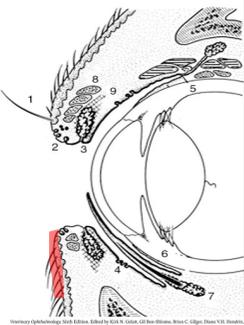
“THE EYE IS LEAKING/ WEEPING”
Epiphora

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“THE EYE IS LEAKING/ WEEPING”
Mucoid/ hemorrhagic

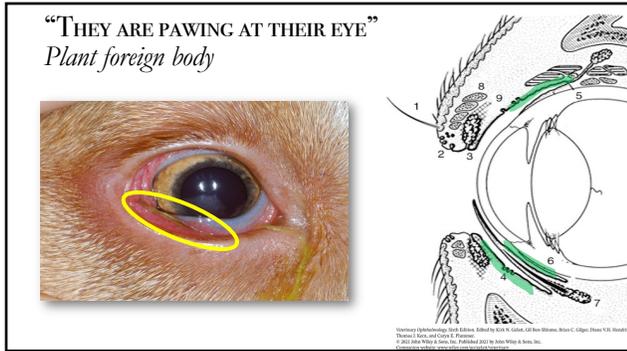
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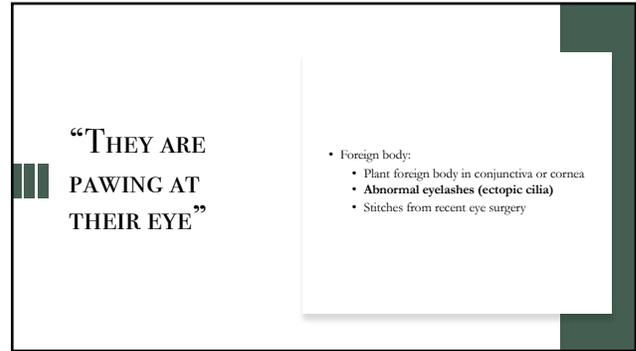
“THEY ARE PAWING AT THEIR EYE”

- Foreign body:
 - Plant foreign body in conjunctiva or cornea
 - Abnormal eyelashes (ectopic cilia)
 - Stitches from recent eye surgery

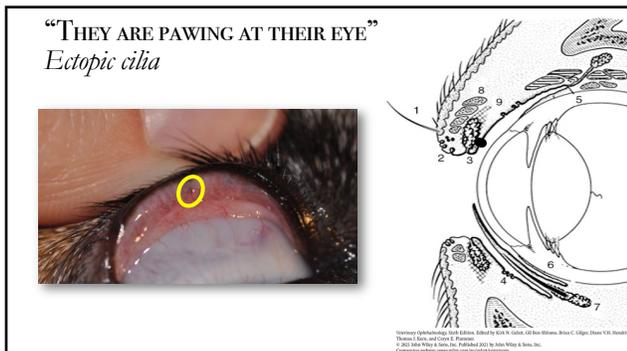
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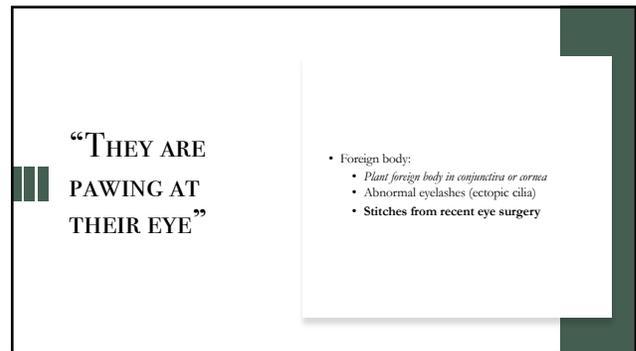
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||| QUESTIONS?

A photograph of a grey cat lying on a red surface, possibly a couch or bed. The cat is looking directly at the camera with its yellow eyes. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a patterned fabric.

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