Here’s Sand in Your Eye

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A 2-year-old, female Louisiana Catahoula leopard dog mix was referred to us for evaluation of swelling of the medial canthus (inner corner) of the left eye (FIGURE 1). The swelling had recently become firm but had been present when the patient lived in California a few months before. The owner wondered if the swelling could be due to a sand granule under the skin.

Our ophthalmologist diagnosed the swelling as a cyst, and a contrast radiography study confirmed that it did not communicate with the nasolacrimal duct system (FIGURE 2). We drained the swelling, but when it returned within a week, surgery was performed to remove the entire cyst pocket.

Within the pocket were several granules (FIGURE 3) that we could not identify, so a biopsy was ordered. The laboratory found cholesterol deposits within the cyst—possibly a reaction to a foreign body. The owner’s sand granule theory may have been correct after all! The patient recovered uneventfully and has not developed any more swellings.

Do You Have a Unique Case to Share? Send it to us along with high-resolution clinical images and/or video that help tell the story. Provide a 100- to 300-word description of what the images show, how the case was treated, and the animal’s recovery. We pay $75 per published case. Send submissions by e-mail to editor@VetTechJournal.com, or mail to Veterinary Technician, 780 Township Line Road, Yardley, PA 19067.