

Puppy Warts are Usually Not Removed

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Q. Why is surgical removal of warts usually not recommended?

A. Warts, also called 'cutaneous papillomas,' occur most commonly in young dogs. Many are thought to result from an infection with a certain virus called 'papovavirus' (not parvovirus). They usually occur on the dog's face including the lips, tongue, inside of the mouth, and eyelids. The warts are generally light colored and have a cauliflower-like appearance.

Warts caused by viruses are usually benign and will generally go away by themselves in several weeks or months. Therefore, treatment is generally withheld. If, however, the warts are interfering with eating or become very large, they can be removed. Generally, cryosurgery (freezing the tissue) is the method of choice.