



**Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic**

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Ear Care

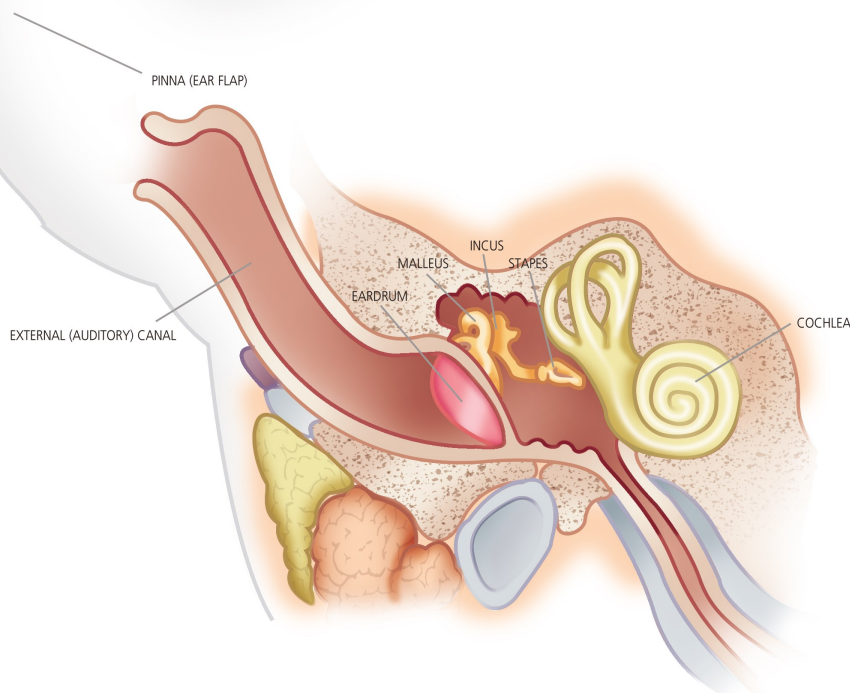
Causes of Ear Disease

Ear infections are a very common problem in dogs and cats. Any dog can get ear infections but several breeds are more likely to develop a problem. These include dogs with long ears such as cocker spaniels or dogs with hairy ears like Poodles and Schnauzers. In cats the Persian breed seems to be more prone to such infections. Dogs with allergies are also at risk.

Otitis Externa, The inside of your dogs ear is a perfect place for yeast and bacteria to multiply and cause an ear infections because it is warm, dark and moist. In the ear there is normally a small amount of bacteria, yeast and wax. Ear infections occur when there is a disruption to the normal environment in the ear. There are a few factors that do this. These include; excess moisture in the ears due to swimming or bathing, excess wax production, a foreign body such as a grass seed, parasites (mite, fleas) and skin allergies. These things can cause ear infections because they irritate the ear. When the inside of ears become irritated they produce too much wax. The moisture of the wax promotes bacterial and yeast overgrowth, which causes an infection. If you pet has an ear infection, they will be in considerable discomfort. When seeking treatment, act promptly.

Ear mites, are common parasites that are highly contagious, often contracted from pet to pet. Excessive itching is the most common sign. Ear mites create dark, crumbly debris.

Aural haematoma, means blood has accumulated in the ear flap (pinna). The exact cause of this condition in many cases is still unknown, but can sometimes be caused by vigorous head shaking, scratching or trauma to the ear area resulting in damage to the blood vessels, often set off by infection, mites, fleas or debris.



Signs of ear disease

- Unpleasant odour
- Shaking their head
- Excessive scratching, rubbing or pawing of the ears
- Sensitivity to touch, often resulting in pain
- Constant tilting of the head to one side
- Discharge, accumulation of wax or bleeding from the ear
- Redness or swelling of the ear flap or canal
- Loss of balance or hearing or disorientation



How to administer ear medication to your dog or cat

1. Read the label instructions carefully for correct dosage, shake if instructed to
2. Pull the ear flap over the head, squeeze out the desired amount and apply it to the lowest part of the ear canal. You may need a second person to help if your pet doesn't stay still
3. Gently massage the ear area to help work the medication deeper into the ear canal. Many animals will like this as their ears are itchy. You should be able to hear the liquid squishing around in the ear
4. Clean the nozzle and repeat the process in the other ear if required.
5. If using a large amount of liquid (for example maintenance ear cleaners) your pet may shake its head afterwards and excess liquid and/or debris may be expelled

Prevention & Maintenance:

To help decrease the possibility of your pet getting an ear infection there are a few things you can do at home.

- Dry their ears after swimming and put cotton wool in their ears when bathing them
- Control fleas, mites and their skin condition if they have one
- Regularly use ear cleaners to help maintain a healthy ear (ask your vet about the different types available)

Comments from your vet

If you have any further questions please make an appointment with your Veterinarian or ask one of our friendly staff members.