

Prevention of Chronic Ear Infections in Dogs

Anatomy: The ear is lined by skin. Thus, it is under the same influences as the skin. Allergy can be manifested as ear inflammation alone.

Wax is produced to keep the ear canal healthy. Under the influence of heat, humidity, and moisture, the ear canal can become unbalanced; overproduce wax, which can cause an overgrowth of yeast and / or bacteria. Both are normally in the ear canal in small numbers. The overproduction of wax and the overgrowth of the organisms is what causes itching, redness, head shaking, etc. The ear canal can become thickened and painful over time.

Predisposing Factors: Environmental (swimming), anatomy, or other disease. These rarely cause ear problems, but they can change the ear environment predisposing to infection.

Primary Factors: Parasites (mites), foreign bodies, hypersensitivity and skin disorders, endocrine diseases (diabetes, low thyroid hormone production).

Diagnostic Tests:

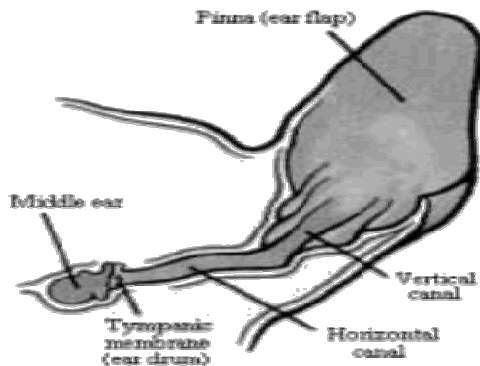
1. Ear Cytology lets us know if yeast or bacteria is the major culprit, determining which medication is best. Repeating the cytology in 14 days assures the ear is all better.
2. Otoscopic Exam of the Ear Canal is done unless sedation is needed first.
3. Bacterial Culture to determine the appropriate oral antibiotic is occasionally needed.

Ear Cleaning: Always done gently to avoid further inflammation.

1. Gently drip cleaner into ear and sweep out the wax with cotton OR
2. Wet cotton with the cleaner and sweep out the outer canal.

Clean once a day when there is infection. Once or twice weekly for maintenance.

Ear Treatment: Apply prescribed medicine into outer canal and rub base of the ear to assure the whole canal gets coated. Make it fun – follow with a treat!



Maintenance ear care prevents reoccurrence of the infection.

Home Care Recommended:
