

Ear Infections

Ear infections are a common ailment in many dogs and some cats. The ear canal is a warm, moist and dark place which makes it ideal for the growth of yeast and bacteria. Once the veterinarian suspects an infection, they swab out a sample and rolled it out on a slide. Under a microscope, the yeast or bacteria can be seen. Treatment with an ear medication usually lasts 14 days with a recheck on the 10th day. Rechecks are very important to determine whether the infection has been cured or if we need to change medications.

If your pet is showing the following signs, they may have an infection and need to see a veterinarian.

- A foul odor coming from the ear
- Frequent scratching of the ear
- Frequent shaking of the head
- Redness or inflammation of the ear
- Tenderness of the ear to touch
- Black, yellow or cream-colored discharge from the ear

There are many reasons ear infections can happen. Some of the primary reasons are food or environment allergies, hypothyroidism and excessive moisture in the ear. If the ear infections are reoccurring, the doctor may suggest switching foods or skin and allergy testing. Periodic ear cleanings can reduce debris and moisture in the ears and help avoid infections. Below are step by step instructions for cleaning.



1. Fill ear canal with cleaning solution.



2. Insert a cotton ball and massage the base of the ear to bring up any material in the canal.



3. Take out the dirty cotton ball and repeat step 3 until the cotton ball comes out clean.

To avoid infections, clean the ears every 1-2 weeks and always after baths or swimming. Floppy eared dogs do not get as much light and air flow in the ear to dry it out. These breeds may need more frequent ear cleanings.