



EAR INFECTIONS (OTITIS EXTERNA)



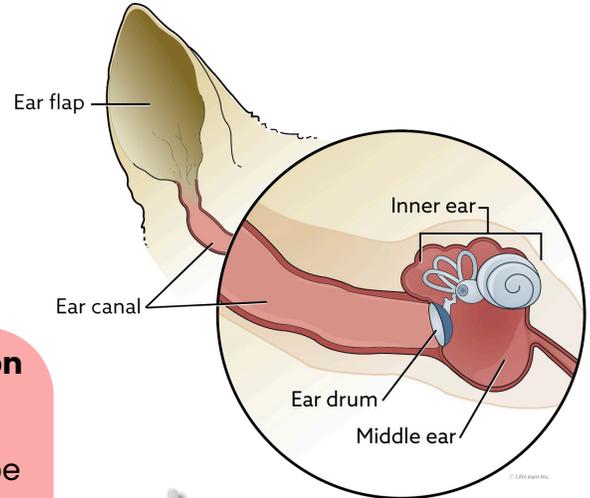
Infection of the external ear canal, called otitis externa, is very common in our dogs. Ear infections can occur in any breed.

Ear infections are painful.

Common symptoms include:

- Head shaking and scratching at the ear
- Discharge, foul odor, redness
- Stenotic (narrow) ear canals and thickened ears

This is a result of long/shirt term damage and may be permanent.



How does my pet get this condition?

There are multiple things that can predispose a pet to ear infections. The most common are underlying allergies, and moisture.

How is this condition diagnosed?

Ear infections can be presumptively diagnosed based on an exam.



APPLIED IN HOSPITAL ONLY!

How is this condition treated?

Ear medications and an ear cleaner will be prescribed to keep the ear clean while treating. If your pet does not tolerate regular ear medications, there are long-acting ear medications that can be used.

Advanced cases may require antibiotics and/or steroids.



DOC NOTES:

Regular ear infections can be managed with ear medications given bi-weekly, weekly, or monthly. Cleaning the ears before medicating helps but won't solve the problem on its own.

How can I prevent ear infections?

Ear cleanings for maintenance, and after swimming and bathing can drastically reduce the number of ear infections that your pet has. It is also important to treat any underlying conditions, such as allergies.

Ear infections tend to recur. As such they are often managed for the life of the dog, and are not cured.

