

"THE SIMPLE EAR INFECTION"

Why "The magic treatment" doesn't exist, and "Give him a shot Doc, I am in a hurry" doesn't work.



CAUSES

Genetic predisposition
Foreign body
Parasites
Hormonal
Allergic
Tumors
Secondary bacterial or fungal
Infection

TESTS

Cultures (bacterial/fungal)
Biopsies
Blood work (for allergies)

TREATMENTS

Neutering/Spay
Pre-anesthesia
Sedation if needed
Flushing
Topical medications
Oral/Injectable medications
Surgeries- major or minor

DEBRIS IN EAR IS:

Cells of ear lining
Wax
Serum or blood
Puss
Dirt
Hair
Other foreign bodies

A. Waxy Ears

Oily-waxy with flaky rims, rancid odor and lots of soft yellow wax. Usually seen in dogs with genetic seborrhea (excessive oil production).

B. Simple Ear Infection

Rare- usually parasites, foreign bodies, and 50% of allergic dogs, (Cockers, Labs, and Sharpei). Can be food related in young dogs. Scratching, and shaking head, pain, fetid odor, debris present. Tx: Clean out canals, awake if possible or under sedation. Prescribe ointment and if needed, antibiotics, or an injection for mites or allergies. Recheck in 10-14 days.

C. Recurrent Simple Ear Infection

Causes include hair, water, mites, foreign bodies, tumors, 80% have an allergy base. Symptoms are redness, scratching, shaking head, fetid smell, pain, puss, etc., can usually find other atopy (pollen allergy) symptoms (licking feet, scratching, runny eyes, or nose). Tx: Preanesth blood, sedation, flush ear till completely clean, scope ears to check canals and eardrums, topical ointments, allergy treatment, oral antibiotics, maybe a culture, oral antihistamines or Cortisone for maintenance. Recheck 10 to 14 days, may need to re-sedate clean, and retreat.

D. Bad Recurrent Simple Ear Infection-Resistant to Treatment

Severe pain, discharge of puss or blood, odor, head tilt, ear canals swollen shut, and possible erosion of eardrums, shaking head, scratching, reddening. Testing: Blood to lab, thyroid, cultures, biopsy if mass (tumor). Surgery: Suggest neutering in seborrhea cases, pre-operative blood work, anesthesia, flush ears, samples, drying agent. Tx: Oral antibiotics, anti-fungal, anti-allergy topical ointments for ears, cleaner for home, treat other systemic problems. Treat for 10-14 days. Recheck 1-3 times. May require sedation etc. each time. Clean till debris stops building up, can take 3-6 weeks to clear up.

E. Really Bad Recurrent Simple Ear Infection

Ruptured eardrums, heavy discharge, middle ear infection, SEVERE PAIN, reddening, scratching, shaking head, puss down side of face, canals closing down, swelling shut. May take 6-8 weeks with recurrent flushing of inner ear, culture and re-culture. May require x-rays and even surgical ablation to allow increased air circulation. Middle ear and even inner ear bone infections are potential complications.

F. The Forgotten Step

Monitoring, and home management quarterly. Rechecks, and possible long-term allergy treatment for pets with bad or really bad recurrent Simple Ear Infections. Blood antigen testing or intradermal skin testing to get at source of allergic reactions.

Home Care- Regular cleaning at home from once daily to once every two weeks will control the problem. Depending on the severity and recurrence patter of the disease. Applying a drying agent or topical antibiotic regularly may aid in preventing recurrence, but frequent and thorough cleaning is the mainstay of preventative therapy.

Yes, we do have to charge for services provided. Without this, we would be unable to continue to provide quality medicine and service to you.