

## Ear Infections

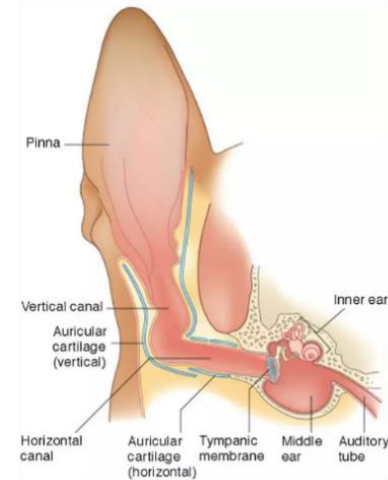
Ear infections can be frustrating to treat for a variety of reasons, including the anatomy of the ear, pets who are difficult to administer medication to, the length of treatment needed, and the possibility of recurring infections. Act quickly at the first signs or trouble as ear infections are extremely uncomfortable and sometimes painful.

### ATTENTION:

It is VERY important to finish ALL medication as prescribed and keep any and all recheck appointments when fighting ear infections. Although the ears may look better after the first week of treatment, there is still infection present that may flare back up in a month or two. This could make it difficult to clear the infection completely

### Causes:

- ~ Allergies (most common cause)
- ~ Accumulation of ear wax
- ~ Matted hair
- ~ Dirt and/or debris
- ~ Foreign object
- ~ Ear mites (highly contagious between animals, more common in cats)
- ~ Some breeds are more susceptible to infection
  - Dogs with pendulous ears (Cocker Spaniels, Labradors, etc.)
  - Dogs with hairy inner ear flaps (Poodles, Schnauzers, etc.)



### Symptoms:

- ~ Unpleasant odor
- ~ Scratching or pawing at ears or head
- ~ Sensitive or painful ears
- ~ Head tilt or shaking head to one side
- ~ Discharge from ears – this can be a variety of colors and consistency
- ~ Redness or swelling of the ear flap or canal
- ~ Changes in behavior
- ~ Accumulation of dark brown wax
- ~ Disorientation – loss of balance or hearing

### Treatment:

- ~ Corticosteroids: reduces inflammation
- ~ Antibiotics: treat bacterial infection
- ~ Anti-fungal: treat yeast infection
- ~ Routine ear cleaning as prevention in chronic cases

### How to administer ear drops:

- ~ Hold ear flap over head and apply desired amount to lowest part of ear canal
- ~ Gently massage at the base of the ear to work medication deeper into the ear
- ~ You should be able to hear the medication squishing as you massage

