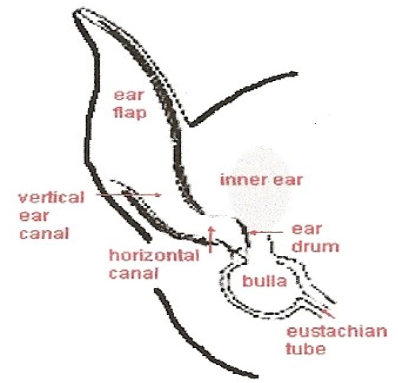




303-948-5000



## **Treatment of Ear Infections**

Dogs get ear infections for many reasons. They are most often caused by **allergies**, yeast, bacteria, ear mites, foxtails, excessive hair, or water from swimming/bathing. Another problem is that animal ears are not as well ventilated as human ears.

Human ears have only a horizontal canal, while animals have both a horizontal and a vertical canal. The vertical canal decreases ventilation and drainage therefore predisposing animals to infection. Many dogs have underlying allergies that cause the ear canals to become inflamed and humid, then the yeast (a normal inhabitant of the ear) overgrow and develop into an infection.

Ear problems are common and can be prevented. Mild infections should be controlled before they become severe. Severe infections may require anesthesia for proper cleaning. Once a problem has been diagnosed, it is very important to follow a strict treatment schedule and to **continue preventative care after the problem is resolved**. Surgery may even be necessary in some chronic cases.

### **TREATMENT SCHEDULE**

- ❑ **Clean ears:** Squirt cleaner on Q-tips and/or gauze pads and clean about 2" into the canal and around the outer ear. **Pull the outer ear back to straighten out the ear canal as you clean it.** Clean with a scooping motion. Do not squirt cleaner in the ear.
- ❑ **Clean ears by squirting a small amount of cleaner in the ear, massaging the ear canal, and then allowing your dog to shake its head.** Wait 30 minutes before infusing the medication.
- ❑ Clean twice weekly for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
- ❑ Clean once weekly for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
- ❑ **MAINTENANCE:** Use the cleaner after a bath, or anytime your pet goes for a swim. Place cotton balls in the ears before a bath. If your dog swims or plays in the sprinkler, afterwards, squirt cleaner in the ear and let them shake it out. Infuse meds if needed.
- ❑ **PREVENTATIVE:** Clean the ear on a regular basis as a preventative. You may start more frequently, then gradually increase the interval. ***Use your best judgement.*** You may also use the medication as a preventative, but use no more than once weekly.
- ❑ Recheck in \_\_\_\_\_ days. Rechecks are very important! We look down in the ear canal to see if the infection is persisting. If there is still infection inside where you can't see it, your dog will continue to have problems!
- ❑ Recheck only if symptoms do not resolve or if they recur.