

Have questions?

The staff at Chester Valley is here to help, just let us know how we can help your pet enjoy all life's adventures.



CHESTER VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL
helping pets enjoy every adventure

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healthypetalaska.com

Itchy, stinky ears?



Ear infections can make you and your pet miserable.

Signs of an ear infection

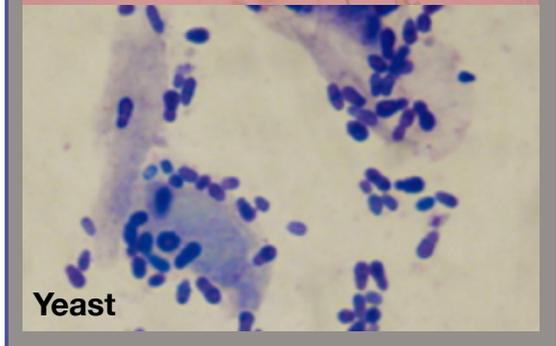
Head shaking, ear scratching, redness, debris or an odor can all be indications of an ear infection.

Causes

There are many things that can trigger an ear infection to develop including allergies, foreign material or excessive moisture. The infection itself is often a growth of yeast, bacteria, ear mites or a combination of these microscopic organisms. The only way to be certain of what is growing in your pet's ears is to examine a swab with a microscope. This is a very important step because bacteria, yeast and ear mites each need different medications to be treated effectively.



Ear Mite



Yeast

Cleaning your pet's ears

Pet ear canals have a vertical portion, which you can see when you look down into their ear, and a horizontal portion, which is out of sight.

To ensure cleaning of both portions of the ear canal, fill your pet's ear with cleaner and massage the side of their head just below the ear. This will help the cleaner get into the horizontal canal and loosen any material trapped there. You should hear a sloshing noise as the cleaner moves back and forth.

Allow your pet to shake the ear cleaner out.

You can use cotton balls or gauze to wipe any debris off your pet's ear, but do not put anything in the ear beyond where you can see. Doing so could push the infection farther down the canal or accidentally damage the ear drum.

If your pet has been prescribed ear medication, apply it after cleaning the ears.

To view a video of how to clean your pet's ears:

Go to: www.healthypetalaska.com

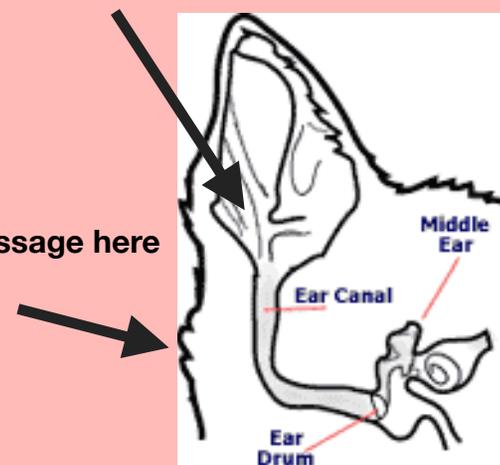
In the "Pet & Client Information" menu, select "Informative Videos"

Scroll down to find "How To Clean A Dog's Ears"

1. Fill with cleaner

2. Massage here

3. Allow pet to shake



Preventing repeat infections

After treating an ear infection, it is very important to recheck with a veterinarian, as a microscope is the only way to confirm that all of the yeast, bacteria and/or mites are gone. Even if your pet is no longer itchy, some may still be lurking.

Once the infection is gone routine cleaning can help prevent another infection from taking hold.

Depending on the underlying cause of your pet's ear infection, your veterinarian may also have additional information about how to keep them infection-free in the future.