



**HERE'S
AN EARFUL
FOR YOU**

Details About Otitis Externa

FOR DOG PARENTS



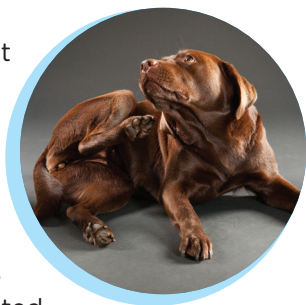
MERCK
Animal Health

What are the signs of otitis externa?

There are many signs that your dog may have ear inflammation and a possible infection.

The ear canal may be painful depending on the cause or extent of the condition, and one or both ears can be affected.

The following signs can be sudden or long term and should be checked by your veterinarian:



Headshaking or tilting

Foul odor

Too much scratching or rubbing of the ear

Noticeable discharge

Hearing loss

Scaly or crusty skin around the outer ear

Noticeable hair loss around the ear

Loss of balance

What are the causes of otitis externa?

It is important to know that ear inflammation happens for a reason and can be caused by many different factors. Some of these factors are considered primary causes that play a direct role in redness and swelling. These include:

Parasites

Foreign objects

Fungus

Allergies (including food allergies and red, itchy skin)

Certain diseases

What can increase the risk for otitis externa?

Secondary causes like certain bacteria and yeasts can prolong ear inflammation by creating disease in the ear. Sometimes the shape of a dog's ear flap or ear canals can make them more at risk. Other factors that can cause ear inflammation include:

Too much hair in the ear canal(s)

Too much moisture in the ear (wet environment, swimming)

How is otitis externa diagnosed?

If your dog shows any signs of ear redness and swelling, your veterinarian will do a full examination to determine the cause.



How is otitis externa treated?

- Your veterinarian will identify the cause and prescribe medication to treat accordingly, including to manage any pain your dog may feel
- You should follow your veterinarian's recommended treatment carefully for the best outcome
- Be sure to schedule a follow-up visit for your dog to be rechecked





What are signs to watch out for?

Be sure to regularly check your dog's ears and schedule a checkup with your veterinarian if you notice any of the following changes in your dog's ear(s):

Temperature

Skin color or condition

Too much moisture

Mild odor


Sensitivity to touch


Ear cleaning is essential

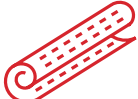
In general, checking the health of your dog's ears and keeping them clean should be done on a regular basis. Cleaning is especially important if your dog has ear inflammation or is prone to ear infections.

- Be sure to use cotton balls or gauze and veterinary-approved ear cleaning solution
- Avoid using Q-tips or anything with a pointed tip, since these could push any debris farther into the ear canal
- Also avoid wax removal liquid, over-the-counter ear cleaners, home remedies and vinegar dilutions, and powders


Steps to proper ear cleaning


-  **Squeeze enough cleaner** into the ear to fill the canal. Then gently massage the base of the ear
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-  **Gently grasp the base of the ear** and pull the ear flap up and away from the head to straighten out the "L" shape of the canal
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-  **Wad the cotton or gauze** into a tubular shape
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-  **Gently insert it into the canal** as far as it will go
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-  **Gently massage the base of the ear** to help work debris toward the cotton or gauze and dry the canal
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-  **Wait a few minutes before using any medication** in the affected ear(s) as instructed by your veterinarian

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW YOUR VETERINARIAN'S INSTRUCTIONS ON WHEN AND HOW OFTEN TO CLEAN.



TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT MERCK ANIMAL HEALTH'S FAMILY OF PRODUCTS TO TREAT OTITIS EXTERNA

Pet Treatment Notes:



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