

Let's find out.

Ear infections can have many causes.

Excessive moisture (bathing, swimming)

Growths/polyps/tumors

Food allergies

Seasonal Allergies

Overactive adrenal gland
(Cushing's Disease)

Low thyroid (hypothyroidism)

Ear position

Ear Mites



The bottom line is that inflammation & moisture allow bacteria or yeast to thrive and cause an infection.



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Ear Infections

- Head shaking
- Ear Scratching
- Discharge
- Odor

**Where did my pet
get an ear
infection?**

Sometimes more testing is necessary.

There are times when an ear infection isn't that simple. In order to treat more effectively and reduce the frequency of infection, sometimes we have to hunt for an underlying cause. This may involve ear swabs, ear cultures to identify bacteria, or blood tests to rule out diseases in the body.



Treatment Depends on the Cause

Treatments:

Topical Ointment

In most cases a combination topical ointment used as directed will be enough to kill the infection. These products treat bacteria, yeast and reduce inflammation. The product used can depend on the type of infection and response to medication.

Ear Flush

Ear flush can also be very important! During infection, this keeps the ear canal clean so the treatment is more effective. Usually the ear is flushed once a day. It is also used during healthy times one to two times a week to help prevent future infection.

Oral Medication

In more severe or chronic cases, medications by mouth may be necessary. This may mean antibiotics or anti-yeast medications. In some cases an anti-inflammatory like a steroid (prednisone) can be used to treat underlying allergies as well as reduce the pain of the infection.

Successful treatment depends on faithful use of the medication and frequent rechecks.

Rechecks:

Rechecks involve examination, discussion about response to and ease of medication, and sometimes a recheck ear swab or culture. Depending on previous testing, sometimes recheck blood tests are necessary as well.

Middle Ear

In more severe or chronic cases, an outer ear infection can also involve the middle ear. If infection has spread, signs may include:

Head tilt

Difficulty chewing

Difficulty Barking

“Twitching” eyes

Drooping Face

If any of these signs occur, notify your veterinarian.