

Wessex Veterinary Orthopaedics

Independent Veterinary Referral Service for
Orthopaedics, Spinal Surgery & Dermatology

Ear Infections

Ear infections may involve the outer ear canal (otitis externa) and/or the middle ear cavity (otitis media). Ear infections can be very painful for pets and, if not treated promptly and correctly, may lead to permanent damage with loss of hearing. Chronic or recurrent ear infections can cause progressive structural changes within the ear canal, which in some cases may ultimately require surgery.

When to Suspect an Ear Infection

Common signs of an ear infection include:

- Red, warm ear flaps
- Head shaking
- One or both ears held down
- Scratching or rubbing at the ears
- Pain when the ears are touched or handled
- Unpleasant odour or visible discharge from the ear canal

Causes of Ear Infections

Ear infections generally have an underlying cause, including:

- Allergies
- Foreign bodies (such as grass seeds)
- Moisture in the ear canal from bathing or regular swimming

These factors can lead to secondary infections caused by bacteria and/or yeast.

In rarer cases, an underlying tumour or polyp may be present, obstructing the ear canal and contributing to the persistence of infection.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Early assessment and appropriate treatment are essential to relieve discomfort, prevent progression, and avoid long-term complications. We have developed advanced, targeted approaches to managing ear disease, allowing us to successfully treat the majority of cases without the need for surgery.

We use a high-end video otoscope, a very useful tool that allows:

- Thorough cleaning and flushing of the ear canals
- Detailed assessment of the ear canal and eardrum
- Access to the middle ear when a middle ear infection is present

In many cases, CT imaging is required in combination with video otoscopy to diagnose the presence and extent of the ear disease.

340 Poole Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset, BH12 1AW

call 01202 022994

enquiries@wessexvetortho.com

wessexvetortho.com