



## ALL CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

### Keeping your pet's ears clean and healthy

Ear problems are one of the most common reasons that dogs (it is less often in cats) are brought to the surgery. There are many reasons for this:

1. **Breed** – dogs with dropping ears (e.g. spaniels), dogs that go into water a lot (e.g. retrievers) and dogs with "hairy" ear canals (e.g. curly coated dogs – poodles – and also Yorkshire terriers).
2. **Dogs that are kept indoors** – wax and moisture in the ear, added to the warm indoor atmosphere, is the perfect environment for infections to arise.
3. **Specific infections** - infections like ear mites are common in dogs and cats, especially at a young age. These should be treated quickly and effectively with a proven product if long term damage is to be avoided .

**ALL OF THE ABOVE FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO A BUILD UP OF WAX AND DIRT IN THE EARS, WHICH WILL LEAD TO INFECTION AND INFLAMMATION.**

#### Treatment and prevention

As you will see from the above, most ear problems are caused by a combination of wax, hair, moisture and inadequate ventilation of the ear (dropping ears). It is important to keep the ears as **Clean, Dry and Hair Free** as possible. This is not difficult to do but it should be started at a young age to ensure your pet's co-operation. **It Is Also Important Not to Wait for Problems to Develop** as the ear will then be tender and the dog uncooperative. **Also, Once An Ear Has Become Inflamed, It Is More Likely To Flare Up Again In The Future – So Start When Young!**

- **CLEAN** away any wax or discharge from the ear, using a proven cleaner, as demonstrated by the vet. **See our how to clean ears video**
- **INSTILL** any medication prescribed in the clean ear.



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**REMEMBER – REGULAR CLEANING WILL AVOID PAINFUL (& COSTLY!) TREATMENT AND POSSIBLE SURGERY.**

Occasionally, in very advanced / painful cases, an anaesthetic will be needed and, in extreme cases, corrective surgery is required.