

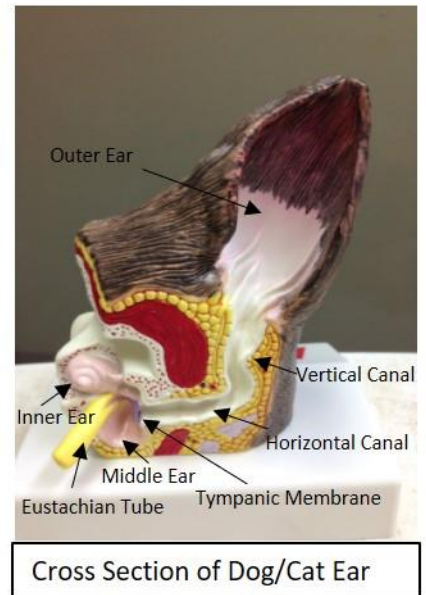


How to Medicate Ears

Ear infections are a common problem for some dogs and cats. Signs of ear infections include redness of the ear, a bad smell, shaking the head, scratching at the affected ear and ear discharge. Ear cytology is needed to identify the cause of the ear infection. Ear infections are often painful and itchy. Treatment requires medications to help alleviate pain, as well as to decrease inflammation and resolve the infection.

Canine and feline ear canals

- Are shaped like an “L”
- Lying on their side, the medication will not leak out.
- Can be difficult to get medications to the end of the canal
- Need to wait after cleaning the ear to administer medication as the ear would already be full of cleaner!



When administering ear medications, instill the liquid into the canal running parallel to their head (not towards their head) and then massaging the ear canal from the outside for about 10 seconds. This will force medication down and help with penetration. You will hear the squishing sound! As some dogs can be painful or dislike their ears being touched, you may require help to administer ear medications.



Tips to instilling the ear medications

- Have a helper to hold the pet while you administer the medications
- If you are administering medications on your own, you can place your pet on the couch right up against the armrest with you sitting next to them very closely. The couch will help you hold while leaving both your hands free to touch the ear and medicate.
- Massage, massage, massage! This helps the medication get deeper down into the ear canal.

Adverse reactions to ear medications are rare, but if you are concerned that your pet is not hearing as well as before or have other concerns, please call us immediately. It is important to have your pet's ears re-assessed during or after treatment to ensure the infection has cleared.

Thank you for entrusting the care of your pet with Nanaimo Veterinary Hospital. Please let us know if you have any questions at 250-758-3985 or by email at nveth@shaw.ca

Related Readings:

Otitis Externa Treatment in Dogs-Veterinary Partners

<https://www.vin.com/veterinarypartner/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951994>

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