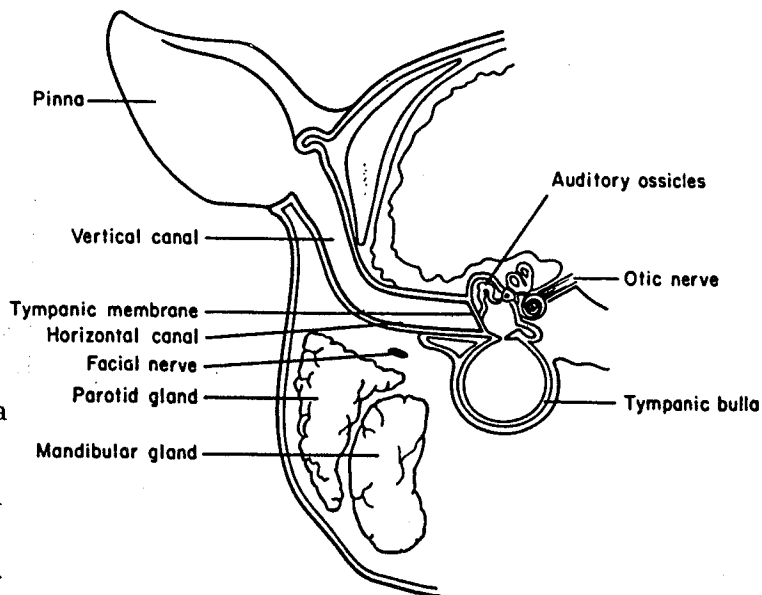


# EAR CARE



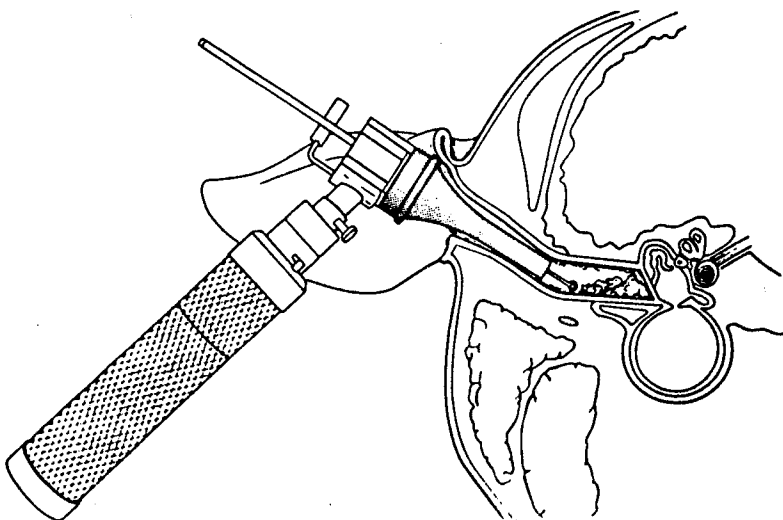
Ear canal infection/inflammation or otitis externa is exceedingly common in our pet dogs and cats. There are many causes of this disease. Among them are earmites, foreign body penetration of the ear canal, pendulous ears, narrow ear canals, excess hair in ear canals and breed predisposition. Commonly affected breeds include Cocker Spaniels, Springer Spaniels, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds and Poodles. There also exist systemic diseases which may lead to otitis externa. Among them are seborrhea, allergies, hypothyroidism and nutritional deficiencies.

Once the ear canal is irritated and inflamed by whatever cause, the glands located within the ear canal react. They do so by producing excessive quantities of waxes and oils. This provides ideal growth material for bacteria and yeast. Combined with the dark moist environment of very long ear canals, this results in a self-perpetuating infection.

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To stop this process the following must be accomplished:

1. The ear canal is examined, swabbed and sampled to diagnose the type of infection present
2. A thorough and complete cleaning of the ear canal is achieved
3. Appropriate medication is given as directed
4. Any underlying causes must be corrected
5. A program of maintenance care must be started.



Direct visualization with total patient cooperation is required to clear all debris from your pet's ear canal.

A serious ear problem requires long term maintenance care. You can clean your pet's ears at home as follows:

1. Use an ear cleaning solution like Nolvasan Otic. Fill the ear canal with the solution and massage base of ear canal while extending the ear at a 45° angle. Allow ear to soak for 5-7 minutes. Dry ear with cotton balls.
2. Apply medication as directed.
3. Have ears rechecked by the vet as directed.