



THE VETERINARY SURGERY

Yarrambat & North Warrandyte

APPLYING EAR DROPS

Ear infections, also known as otitis externa, are common in dogs. There are many factors that can contribute to an infection developing in a pet but the most common is allergies. If your dog develops a skin rash at certain times of year or after eating particular foods you will need to keep an eye out for an ear infection developing.

Signs of an ear infection include head shaking, scratching at the ear with a back paw, redness and a smelly discharge. Fortunately, otitis externa is treatable. If you notice any of these signs in your pet, book an appointment with one of our vets. They will examine the ear canal with an instrument known as an otoscope and may even take a swab to check what bugs are present so they can determine the best treatment for your pet.

In most cases an ear drop will be prescribed. These generally consist of a mix of antibiotics, antifungals and anti-inflammatories. To administer the drops, hold the ear flap with your hand and place the nozzle in the ear canal, which sits towards the bottom and front of the ear. Give the bottle a squeeze – you should not be counting drops because if you can see these you do not have the nozzle in far enough. For more severe infections we may provide a syringe so that you can apply a measured amount of medication into the ear canal. Once the ear drops have been applied, massage the ear to spread the liquid around. The canal is lined by cartilage so will feel firm and you should be able to hear a squelching sound when you are doing this correctly.

After you have applied the ear medication, make sure you give your dog a valuable treat. Ear infections can be painful, particularly in the early stages of treatment, so it is important that your pet learns that if they stay still and allow you to treat them, they will be well rewarded.

If you are unsure whether you are applying the ear drops effectively, feel free to come down to the clinic. Our trained team of nurses will be happy to demonstrate the proper technique for you.