

# Ear Problems

by Donna of [Your Pet Pals](#)

**Hands up all those who have a dog that suffers with ear problems...**

*As I expected.....lots of you.*

There can be many things that cause your dogs' ears to become inflamed; **ear mites, a yeast infection or bacterial infection**, a **foreign object** such as spear grass or even a mass within the ear. Then there are **allergies** and **sensitivities** and other **medical conditions** that facilitate the infection developing.

Initially, the problem can be seen in the external ear canal. At this time the **symptoms** may **include head shaking and pawing**. Your dog might also have **discharge from the ear**, with or without **odor**. In the next phase, the disease may spread to the middle ear, which includes the eardrum. In the final phase, otitis (inflammation of the ear) spreads to the inner ear, which includes the mechanisms responsible for your dog's balance.

Unfortunately it doesn't stop there. In the more severe cases, dogs may become reluctant to open their mouths or chew and they may have a pronounced head tilt accompanied by problems maintaining their balance and drooping lips or eyelids. You can only imagine the pain by this point!

Certainly some breeds seem much more prone to develop ear infections mostly due to the structure of their ear and their activities (swimming) which can often maintain a warm moist environment which is ideal for growing yeast and bacteria.

Whatever the cause, the condition causes both pain and discomfort for the poor dog and is both distressing and expensive for you, the guardian as you get caught in the revolving door at the vet clinic. Like all health conditions, the issue has to be addressed. If left, beyond the pain that your dog will suffer, the problem can become worse and may necessitate surgery!

So, when you have a dog with this challenge it is important to get on board the preventative train and work to find solutions. Your vet can help you understand the problem and the steps that you can take to help prevent recurrence of the condition. Ear cleaners and various treatments, changes to your pets' food and treats can all play a role in helping to solve the problem.

There are many excellent natural solutions also. **Zymox** is a remarkable natural product. It is an **enzymatic solution** in the form of both an **ear treatment** for **stubborn bacterial, fungal and yeast infections** and a **cleaner for maintenance**.

There are also many very good herbal cleaners that are soothing to red, sore ears and that pets' seem to find less distressing than some of the typical ear cleaners that tend to have ingredients that are designed to strip wax and debris from the ear.

Cleaning your dog's ears is an important part of managing ear infections. It is part of your of the regular health maintenance that you should perform at home and comes with the privileges of pet guardianship.

Here are a few tips to getting the job done well:

- Make sure you clean your dog's ears outside the home or in an area where flying debris from the ear canal is not going to stick to a surface that stains easily. When your dog shakes her head after solution has been placed in the ear, the debris flies in all directions and has a magical knack for finding you nice new curtains and paintwork!
- First, flood the ear canal with the cleaning solution....make sure that ear canal is nice and full. Allow the solution to sit in the canal for 60 seconds and during this time, massage the canal gently to help to dislodge the wax and matter inside the ear canal. The step back and let your dog shake!
- Don't just put a few drops in the ear. You are not saving money by doing so. You are simply setting yourself up for failure and that is always more expensive.
- Only use cotton balls to clean out the ear. Not swabs as these tend to push the debris further down into the ear which can add to the problem.
- Do not use Q-tips. These are great for your ear but that is where their use comes to an end. You may inadvertently do damage pushing a Q – tip into your dogs' ear.
- **Frequency for cleaning depends on the product.** Often you start with twice a day cleanings when things are at their worst. You will get to doing this once or twice a week for maintenance.

There are also many homeopathic remedies that are helpful and that can be used successfully in combination with other natural and allopathic medicines.

If you want to tackle this problem as naturally as possible, the best advice is to find someone who knows a lot about nutrition and available foods, homeopathy and natural healing. That person can help you look at the problem from a holistic perspective. This means considering all the symptoms as parts of a whole. With the right natural healing advice you can achieve and maintain balance in your pets' well-being and, in most cases, the health challenges will gradually fade away.