



KEEPING YOUR PETS EARS CLEAN & HEALTHY

- 1) **BREED** – some breeds are more inclined to get ear problems than others. Dogs with long drooping ears (spaniels), dogs that go into the water a lot (retrievers) and dogs with hairy ears (yorkshire terriers, poodles etc).
- 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 in order to avoid long term damage.

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

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

As you will see from the above, most ear problems are caused by a combination of an accumulation of ear wax, hair, moisture and inadequate ventilation of the ear (drooping 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 pets cooperation. **It is also important not to wait for problems to develop**, as the ear will 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!

- **PLUCK** any hairs visible at the top of the ear canal.
- **CLEAN** away any wax or discharge from the ear, using a proven ear cleaner.
- **INSTIL** any medication prescribed into the clean ear.

Feel free to ask any of our nurses how to clean your pets ears and how to apply the medication

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