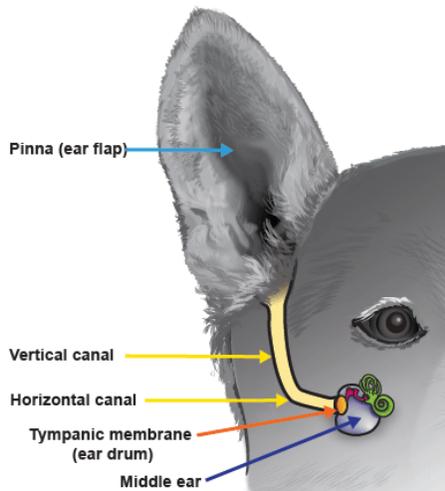




The Warner Vet Gazette

Spring 2017 Edition

SPOTLIGHT ON EAR INFECTIONS



Spring has sprung, and with the warmer weather we are starting to see more ear infections in our canine population. "Otitis externa", or external ear infection is one of the most common presentations of atopy (or seasonal allergy) in our canine patients. Ear infections can also occur secondary to foreign objects or excess moisture in the canal.

Ear infections can be recognised by scratching and "flapping" the ears, whining and tilting the head or discharge and smell from one or both ears. Most infections can be treated with topical ointment but chronic cases may require more intensive management. If otitis externa is suspected, your vet will do the following:

1. Examine the ear canal for any foreign objects, and examine the tympanic membranes (ear drums) for inflammation or puncture
2. Perform cytology (microscopic examination) of swabs from the ear canal, to determine the type of infection and the treatment required
3. Treat or manage the underlying allergic component if required.
4. Administer topical medications and in some cases perform an ear flush under general anaesthesia to remove debris.
5. In cases that haven't responded well to normal treatment, send a sample to the lab to check for resistant bacteria.

Ph: (07) 3882 2288

OPENING HOURS

Mon-Friday : 8am - 8pm

Saturday: 8am - 2pm

Sunday: 9am - 12noon

www.warnervet.com.au

Dr Craig Stewart BVSc, MVS

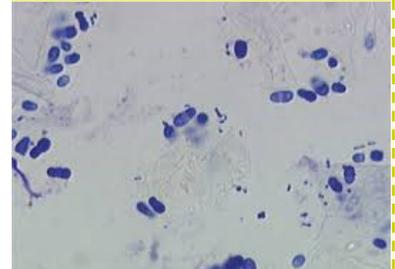
Dr Cara Baade BVSc (hons)

Dr Suzanne Standen BVSc
(hons)

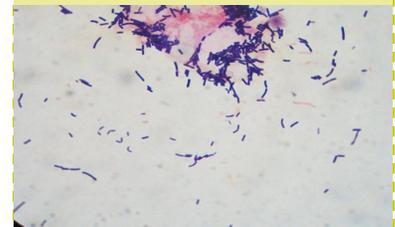
Dr Alan Lin BVSc (hons)

Common ear pathogens under the microscope

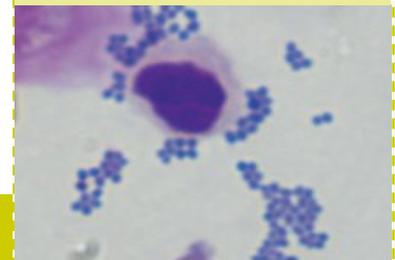
Malassezia pachydermatitis



Rod bacteria



Staphylococcus intermedius



WHY SHOULD MY PET HAVE A DENTAL PROCEDURE?

“Bad breath” is more than just a nuisance to you. It may in fact indicate that your dog or cat’s teeth need veterinary attention. One of the most devastating diseases that your pet can develop during its lifetime is dental disease. Unfortunately, dental disease in its various stages is also one of the most common problems we see in our patients. However, through appropriate preventative measures and timely treatment, we can deal with this problem before it presents a serious threat to your pet’s health.

What type of anaesthesia will my pet receive during the procedure, and what precautions do you take to minimize risk to my pet during the procedure?

All patients receive a thorough physical examination and depending on your pet’s age and health status, laboratory tests are run to assess your pet’s ability to process and metabolize the anesthetic drugs. An intravenous (IV) catheter is placed prior to anaesthesia for the administration of drugs and fluids, as well as to maintain normal blood pressure. Injectable and inhalant anaesthetics are used in combination to provide a level of safety similar to what you find in human hospitals. An endotracheal (breathing) tube is used to provide oxygen and inhalant anaesthetics to your pet, while at the same time protecting the airways and lungs from water and debris that accumulate in the mouth during the procedure. A veterinary technician, under the direct supervision of the attending veterinarian, uses body function monitors to closely monitor your pet.

What kind of equipment do you use for dental procedures?

We use both power and hand instruments during our dental procedures. Dental scaling (removal of accumulated plaque and tartar) is accomplished using an ultrasonic water scaler. The teeth are polished using a high-speed polishing cup virtually identical to the one that your dentist uses on you. If extractions or other procedures are required, we have a high-speed dental drill to make sure that the job is done correctly and completely.

Why must my pet undergo anaesthesia for a dental cleaning? Can’t the groomer just scrape the tartar off of his teeth?

Tartar is made of bacteria and when it is removed from the surface of the teeth we worry that small pieces could be inhaled by the patient causing a lung infection. For this reason, “Non-anaesthetic” cleaning is not recommended. Anaesthesia allows us to place an endotracheal tube in the windpipe to prevent infection of the lungs. Secondly, the most important part of the cleaning is the removal of plaque and tartar under the gumline. This is just not possible in an awake pet. And lastly, the teeth are not polished, which will leave the cleaned surface rough and actually increase the adherence of plaque to the teeth.

My pet may require extractions of one or more teeth. Doesn’t that hurt? What pain control do you provide? Will my pet still be able to eat without these teeth?

Extractions and other surgical procedures in the mouth are often painful after your pet wakes up. We include pain medications in our anesthetic protocols to prevent your pet from experiencing pain upon waking up. Our goal in veterinary dental care is for our patients to have mouths free of infection and pain. It is much better to have no tooth at all than to have an infected tooth with a root abscess or a painful broken tooth. We have many dog and cat patients that are able to eat a regular diet with few or even no teeth!