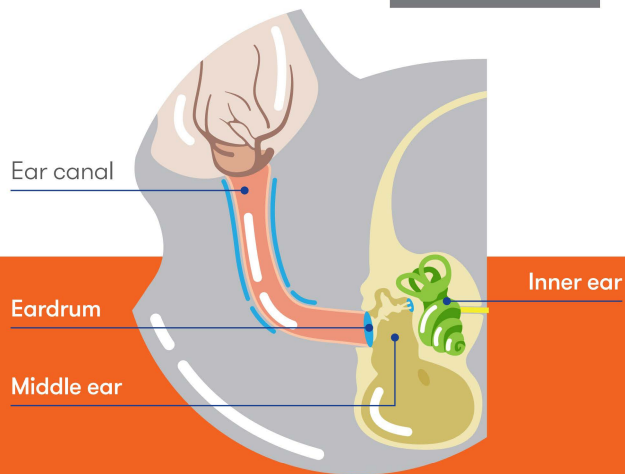


Middle and inner ear infections



These diseases are inflammations or infections of the middle ear (otitis media) and inner ear (otitis interna).

Middle and inner ear infections are typically associated with an external ear infection (otitis externa), and a ruptured eardrum.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- History of external ear infections
- Ear pain, discharge, or bad odor
- Ear scratching or rubbing
- Headshaking or head tilt
- Red or swollen ears
- Loss of balance or hearing

▶ Severe cases can cause permanent hearing loss and loss of balance.



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs like loss of balance
- Physical exams and lab tests
- X-rays

Sedation or anesthesia may be necessary to examine your pet's ear and collect cytology samples.

How is it treated?

First, your team will determine if your pet's eardrum is intact. They may then prescribe antifungals, antibiotics, and other medications for an external ear infection, with additional oral or injectable medications specifically for the inner and middle ear.

Severe cases may also require a deep ear cleaning, performed under anesthesia, to remove any debris that could block medication in the ear.



▶ Only your vet can confirm that your pet's ear infection has been resolved.

How to help your pet



- Ear infections require extended treatment with good home care
 - Administer all medications as prescribed by your veterinary team
 - Keep your pet's ears dry, and ask your team about safe bathing and swimming
 - Monitor your pet's progress carefully and schedule follow-up visits as directed
 - Contact your veterinary team with any questions
 - Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!
- ▶ Never put cotton swabs into your pet's ears—they can damage the eardrum.

