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EAR INFECTION
SYMPTOMS

- Ear scratching
- Brown, yellow or bloody discharge
- Odor in the ear
- Redness
- Swelling
- Wiping the ear area on the floor
- Head shaking or head tilt
- Loss of balance
- Walking in circles

EAR INFECTIONS

Canine ear infections are most often due to bacteria or yeast. Ear mites, growing hair, trapped water, a tumor or foreign body in the ear canal can lead to an overgrowth of bacteria or yeast. Infections may also develop when allergies, hypothyroidism or an excessive amount of ear wax are present.

Frequent bathing, swimming and incorrect cleaning methods can also lead to infec-



tions. Because a dog's ear canals plunge downward and then horizontally from the ear opening, it is diffi-

cult for caught debris or water to be released as it must work its way upward to escape; this makes dogs especially susceptible to ear infections.

Dogs who are prone to allergies or have floppy ears can be especially vulnerable. Cocker spaniels are one breed very prone to this disease, so it is very important for their owners to be meticulous about their grooming. Fungal infections are common to cocker spaniels because air fails to circulate freely in their ears. Air circulation is very crucial in maintaining healthy ears. With floppy ears, small follicles of hair grow in their ears, further blocking the air from coming in. These hairs are usually overlooked by pet owners and are only taken care of when dogs are brought to the groomer. Golden retrievers,

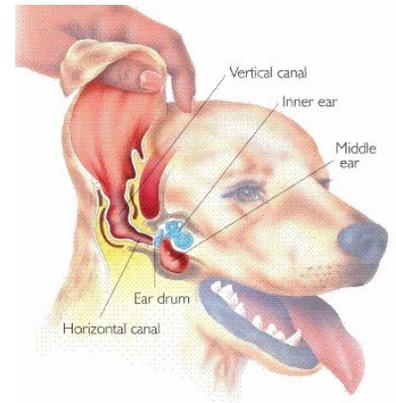
schnauzers and poodles also tend to grow hair in the inner ear canal, making them more susceptible to ear infections.

A veterinarian can usually diagnose an ear infection by examining the ear canal and ear drum with a magnifying ear cone similar to devices used on people. This may require sedation or full anesthesia. A sample of ear discharge may be examined under a microscope to look for bacteria, yeast and/or parasites. A vet may also suggest blood work and allergy tests to determine the root causes.

It's important not to self-diagnose ear problems, as improperly treated infections may lead to chronic pain or deafness in dogs.

Please always allow your vet to determine the cause of your dog's symptoms.

Many ear infections can be treated with a professional cleaning followed by regular cleaning and medication given at home. Your veterinarian may prescribe topical and/or oral medicine. For severe or chronic cases, anesthesia and ear flushing—or even surgery—may be necessary.



HEARTGARD AND FRONTLINE

As a valued client, we wanted to give you a price breakdown on both Heartgard and Frontline. In nearly all cases, with the rebates and special promotions offered through the manufacturer (only available through veterinary clinics), the prices are ultimately lower at All Creatures than online pharmacies. With all purchases of a 12 month supply of Heartgard, we automatically submit a rebate for \$12. This check will be sent directly to you! With each 3 dose package of Frontline, you will also instantly receive an extra free dose at the time of your purchase, getting 4 doses for the price of 3!

Heartgard[®] 
(ivermectin/pyrantel) **Plus**

	1-800-PETMEDS	DR FOSTER & SMITH	ALL CREATURES
Heartgard (blue) 1-25#	\$64.98	\$51.96	\$62.00-\$12 rebate = \$50.00
Heartgard (green) 26-50#	\$84.98	\$67.92	\$80.25-\$12 rebate = \$68.25
Heartgard (brown) 51-100#	\$99.98	\$78.96	\$96.50-\$12 rebate = \$84.50

FRONTLINE[®]
Plus

	1-800-PETMEDS	DR FOSTER & SMITH	ALL CREATURES
Frontline (orange) 1-22#	\$43.99 \$14.66 per dose	\$36.99 \$12.33 per dose	\$47.50 w/ free dose \$11.88 per dose
Frontline (blue) 23-44#	\$44.99 \$15.00 per dose	\$37.99 \$12.66 per dose	\$48.50 w/ free dose \$12.13 per dose
Frontline (purple) 45-88#	\$46.99 \$15.66 per dose	\$39.99 \$13.33 per dose	\$50.55 w/ free dose \$12.64 per dose
Frontline (red) 89-132#	\$47.99 \$16.00 per dose	\$40.99 \$13.66 per dose	\$50.55 w/ free dose \$12.64 per dose
Frontline (feline)	\$43.99 \$14.66 per dose	\$35.99 \$12.00 per dose	\$45.75 w/ free dose \$11.44 per dose

HELP FOR US VETERANS' SERVICE DOGS

The Department of Veteran Affairs, in conjunction with Trupanion, launched the US Veteran Service Dog Program on January 27. The program will allow US veterans with certified service dogs unlimited access to veterinary care. The program enables Trupanion to pay 100 percent of veterans' veterinary bills for certified service dogs.

The VA hopes the program will ease the financial stress veterans experience providing care for their animals. Trupanion says it's a "win-win-win" opportunity for dogs, veterans and veterinarians. A spokesman for Trupanion says execution of the program will be simple: "All veterinarians have to do is send us the bill." Veterinarians can opt to be paid up front as well.

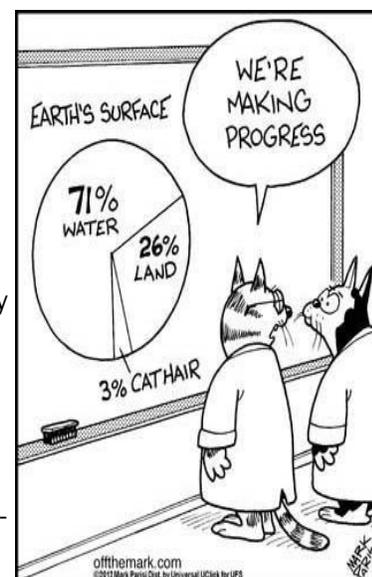
"Whether it's a regular veterinary practice or an emergency hospital in the middle of the night, they can call us at any time," the spokesperson says. "They then just need to e-mail or fax the bill to us and we can pay them directly through Vet Direct Pay, a system that allows them to receive direct payment. They can also request reimbursement. In that case they send us the bill and let us know when they want to be paid. We can even pay them over the phone if they wish as soon as the treatment is over and before the veteran walks out of the building."

The VA will provide a list of the certified service dogs eligible for the program to Trupanion. Each dog will be given a tag with a policy number created by Trupanion. "All veterans have to do is show that to their veterinarian and they can rest assured Trupanion will pay the bill," Trupanion's spokesperson says.

Trupanion has a two-year contract with the VA for the US Veteran Service Dog Program. For more information, contact Trupanion directly. (-Reprinted from *DVM360*)

CLINIC NOTES

- ◆ **It is our policy to require 24 hour notice on all medication refills. Please be aware of when your pet is nearing the end of their supply, so that we can be alerted in time to prevent any lapse in medications.** If you need a refill from a secondary source (i.e. compounding pharmacy, PetMeds, Walgreens), please contact them. They will fax us a request which the doctor will review and fax back at the earliest convenience (within 24 hours). Additionally, please make sure you pay attention to prescription labels for reminders of lab work or rechecks required before the next refill. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is appreciated.
- ◆ Make sure you provide one of the receptionists with your current e-mail address, which will allow you access to *PetPortals*. This allows you 24/7 access to your pet's medical records as well as the ability to request appointments and medication refills online and more! Your privacy is respected and your information will not be shared.
- ◆ Please notify a receptionist if there are any changes to your phone number, address or email.
- ◆ If you love your care and service at All Creatures, please refer a friend. When they provide your name during their first visit, your account will automatically be credited \$25! As a welcome, they will also receive \$25 off their first visit!
- ◆ Some medications may be available through a "human" pharmacy. If you are interested in this option, please discuss with the veterinarian.



Have a favorite photo of
your pet?

Please share it with us to
be featured on our website!



*For best results, e-mail us
a horizontal photo which
is at least 1 MB to:
allcreatures@nvanet.com*

www.allcreaturesanimalcl.com



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