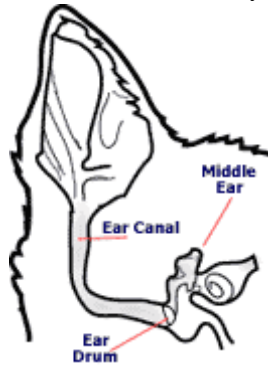


Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA)



Ear Disease

Otitis externa and media, inflammation and infection of the external and middle ear canal, can affect many of pets. Dogs have an L shaped ear canal so fluid and debris cannot drain easily. The lining of the ear canal becomes thickened due to chronic infection causing air and fluid to be trapped deep in the ear. The pressure on the tympanic membrane and the extreme level of inflammation lead to pain. Commonly affected breeds are the Cocker spaniel, Basset hound and Labrador retriever.



Signs and Symptoms:

- Head shaking
- Ear scratching
- Inflamed and thickened lining of ear canal, often red in color at the base
- Dark brown waxy debris or thick white discharge



- Strong, unpleasant odor
- Pain – vocalizing with touching of the head or ears
- Personality and behavior change
- Cauliflower appearance of ear canal entrance as disease worsens
- Becoming head shy
- Discomfort opening mouth to eat
- Hearing loss

Diagnosis

Most patients have ear infections which have been managed for months to years and are now refractory to treatment. Sometimes there can be an underlying allergy making the ear disease difficult to control. We start with an

otoscopic examination to evaluate the level of inflammation, calcification and stricture of the ear



canal. A culture is often taken to determine the type of bacteria present and the appropriate antibiotic for treatment. The culture is usually taken at the time of surgery. In severe cases radiographs and CT scan are used to evaluate the ear canal and the bulla (bone cavity of the middle ear).

When is Surgery Indicated?

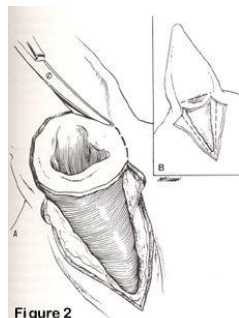
Surgery is indicated when medical management is no longer successful for the treatment of ear disease. This includes chronic ear infections, or severe allergies which target the ear canals. These patients are usually painful with thickened ear canals. They will often be less interactive at home and can seem

depressed. Topical medications rarely are effective due to the thickened tissues and longevity of the disease process.



Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA)

This surgical procedure involves removal of the external ear canal (both horizontal and vertical canals) and tympanic membrane followed by opening and drainage of the bulla (the bony compartment of the middle ear). This allows removal of all infected and inflamed tissue and prevents recurrence of infections. The pinna (ear flap) is usually not affected by the surgery. This surgery is normally curative and continued management of ear disease is not necessary.



Consultation and Surgery Scheduling

We recommend starting with a consultation to discuss whether surgery is right for your pet. We will evaluate your pet's status and discuss the pros and

cons of medical versus surgical treatment. We want you to be informed about your options.

If surgery is the right option for you and your pet we can perform surgery on the same day as consultation.

Recovery and Prognosis

Post-operative care is focused on pain management and incision care. Most patients are hospitalized for one to two days after surgery. We have a veterinarian monitoring our patients 24 hours a day.

Some patients may have a decreased blink reflex after surgery; this is usually temporary and resolves over 1-2 weeks.

Recovery at home requires exercise restriction for two weeks to allow healing of the incision and deeper tissues. They will need to be prevented from scratching at their ear during the recovery process. Patients that had decreased hearing prior to surgery usually do not regain hearing. Most patients have greatly improved comfort 3-5 days after surgery.

Patients have excellent long term prognosis after this procedure.

