

Yeast Infection

What is it?

An overabundance of yeast populating the skin, including inside the ear.

What causes it?

Yeast infections can be very serious. It could be an indication that your dog is battling other underlying issues. A yeast infection can be brought on by an allergic reaction, or could be brought on by an object caught in your dog's ear.



Ordinarily, yeast is a completely normal part of your dog's skin flora. It only becomes dangerous when it begins to reproduce at a massive rate, overtaking the amount it would normally produce in manageable quantities.

Signs & Symptoms

In most cases, yeast infections tend to occur in dogs that have had their immune systems compromised in some way, such as:

- 1) Cancer
- 2) Allergies
- 3) Hormonal disorders
- 4) Drugs that suppress the immune system
- 5) External skin parasites
- 6) Prolonged use of antibiotics or steroids

Dogs that have floppy ears, such as Golden Retrievers, Newfoundlands, some Hounds and Spaniels are at higher risk for yeast infections of the ears.

Another common cause of yeast infections in dogs is bacterial skin infections. As the skin produces excessive oil due to the overgrowth of yeast, causes the dog to scratch and causing secondary sores for the yeast to further thrive in.

Prognosis:

Good with treatment and addressing any underlying condition that is causing yeast to proliferate.

Prevention:

There is no prevention, but you can prevent it from becoming serious with prompt vet visits if yeast is suspected.

Testing & Treatment

Yeast Infections are characterized by skin irritation, Extreme scratching and itching, inflammation around the ears, the chest and groin of the dog, red skin, open sores, greasy coat, hair loss, foul smelling skin-odor, hearing loss.

How is it diagnosed?

Your vet will take a sample. Skin scraping is a common diagnostic procedure.

How is it treated?

It is important to find the underlying cause in order for treatment to be successful long term. Your vet may recommend topical creams, drops, a change in diet, and further testing.

This information is not meant to be a substitute for veterinary care.

Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

*Newfoundland Dog Health Fact Sheet produced by the NCA Health & Longevity Committee
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