

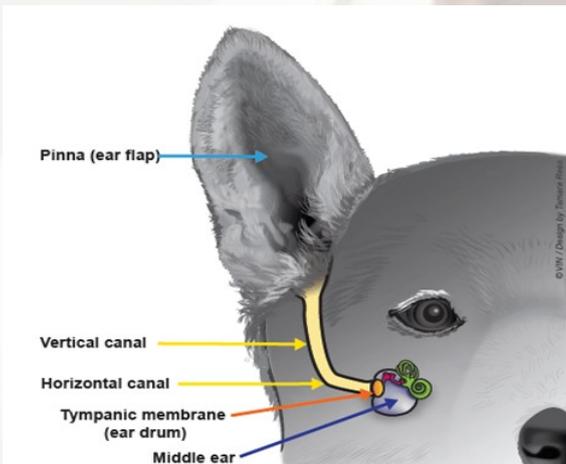


I'm all ears!

Ear infections in dogs

The tubular portion of the outer ear that carries sound to the eardrum is called the ear canal. The most common disorder of the ear canal in dogs is called otitis externa. This is when the layer of cells that line the external ear canal becomes inflamed. Signs can include headshaking, odour, redness of the skin, swelling, scratching, increased discharge, and scaly skin. The ear canal may be painful or itchy depending on the cause and duration of the infection. With ear infections, one or both ears can be affected and signs can be sudden or long term.

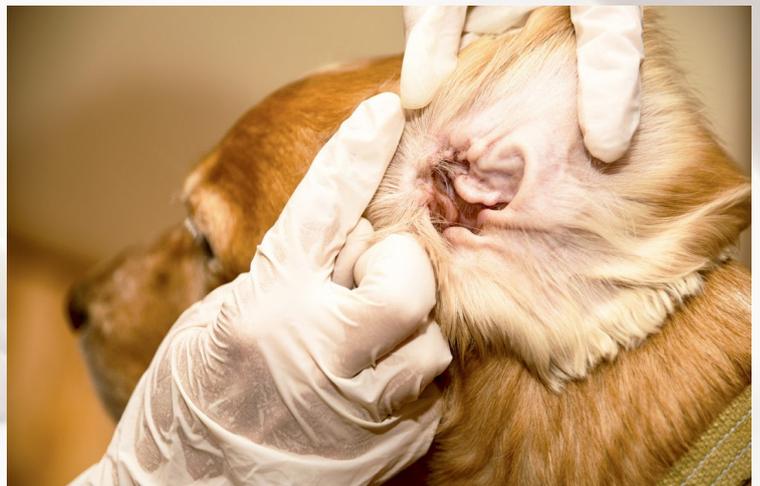
Ear infections can be caused by many different factors. Some of these factors, such as parasites, foreign objects, hair growth deep in the ear and allergies directly cause the inflammation, while others such as certain bacteria, yeasts, or a middle ear infection makes the condition worse. To complicate things further, the shape or form of the ear flap or ear canals can predispose dogs to developing ear infections.



The first problem for the dog's ear is structural. As shown in the illustration, the dog's ear canal has both a vertical and a horizontal component, unlike the human ear canal which goes straight in. This "J" shape of the dog's ear creates a predisposition to ear infections as debris must work its way upward rather than straight out. Accumulation of ear wax, skin oil, and other debris feed the bacteria and fungi that live in the normal ear canal. Also the moisture of wax promotes bacterial growth, yeast proliferation and can lead to infection.

So anything that facilitates ear wax accumulation, sets the stage for ear infection. It might be the narrowed ear opening that prevents drainage, irritation from water in the ear canal after a bath or a swim, or actual disease causing over-production of ear wax. Allergic skin disease affecting the ears is the most common cause for recurring increased ear wax production and infections.

To treat these conditions, your veterinarian will need to identify and correct any underlying causes. If you note any unusual changes in temperature, smell, moisture, or other changes get your dog's ears checked by your vet!



FLEA CONTROL In the working dog

Does lack of sleep affect your ability to work? What about your dogs?

The effects of flea infestation can be distressing to both pet dogs and their owners, especially when they lie next to their owners scratching all night. But what of the working dog?

When a dog is interested and active, the presence of an itch will often be over-ridden by their focus on what they enjoy most, working. Similarly when balanced on the back of a bike there's hardly a chance to have a good scratch. However when the jobs are done and it's time for a rest, up comes the back leg and scratch, scratch, scratch! Sound familiar?



What effect can fleas have on the happiness and performance of your best mate, and probably your best worker? Imagine how you would feel if you had been up all night scratching! Irritable, uncooperative, distracted and just plain dog-tired. The trouble is you don't sleep with your dogs, so you don't see what goes on. And then right at the moment you need 100% focus from your dogs, he has to stop and scratch.

Fleas can cause a range of problems from just plain itching to a full blown allergic reaction. By the time your dog is losing a bit of hair from around the base of his tail, he's been up all night scratching for quite some time. It's a wonder he works at all!

The key to controlling fleas is to understand them.

It is important to realise that only 5% of the flea population (the adult stage) is found on the dog. The other 95% - the eggs, larvae and pupae—survive in the environment all year long. Treating the area around the kennel with insecticides may help but it won't eliminate fleas from all the other sources around the farm—especially wild animals such as possum, hedgehogs, rats and mice. Fleas are everywhere, always ready to jump on board a passing dog, and must continually be dealt to. There is no letting up!



As there is no such thing as a flea repellent, a product that kills fleas is the only answer. And the best way to achieve relief is to use something that kills fleas quickly for the whole duration of the treatment period. Consistent, persistent speed of kill means even new fleas that hop onto your dog will be killed before they can cause a problem, and before they can lay more eggs.

An advertisement for Seresto flea and tick treatment for dogs. The ad features a man in a black jacket and beanie sitting with two dogs, a black and white dog and a black dog. A large blue speech bubble says "\$10 OFF and get 8 months protection from fleas and ticks." Below the image are three Seresto products and a list of benefits: 8 months protection, kills fleas & ticks, easy to use, and value for money. The Elanco logo is in the top right corner and the Seresto logo is in the bottom right corner.

Keep your hens happy this summer

Chickens can't sweat so they use cold water and shade to keep cool.

Overheating symptoms

- Panting
- Lying with wings out in an attempt to use air flow to cool down.
- Stops preening
- Goes limp



1. Ensure birds have access to cool, clean, fresh water in a clean container (birds drink more from clean water sources), and shade as water consumption can be 2-4 times more than normal. Have multiple water containers for birds lower in the pecking order.
2. If you don't have trees or shrubs to give natural shade, shade cloth/wood are a good way to create shade.
3. Feed birds in the morning, this is because digestion generates heat. So with the heat from the digestion and the hot summers day this can contribute to the birds laying less or not laying at all. The heat from these factors can affect their metabolism, so they eat less. This reduces/stops their egg production.
4. Check a couple of times a week for red mite in the coop and in nesting areas as hot weather will encourage a mite population explosion. The easiest way to spot red mite is to go into the coop at night with a torch and you should be able to see them. They look like coloured dust (grey, brown or red) on the perch and on your birds.

The best way to prevent red mites is to be proactive with your choice of treatment and to keep up treatment on a regular (at least once a week) basis throughout summer. Red mites come out at night to feed but during the day they like to hide in cracks inside the coop, particularly where roosts meet walls and in joins in framing, so whatever product you're using needs to target these areas. Speak with your vet to see what the best options are for your chickens.

The **Drought Risk Indicator** is an easy-to-use web app for the region's rural community.

The Regional Council designed the tool – the first of its kind in New Zealand - to build drought resilience in the community with funding from Ministry for Primary Industries and in partnership with the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group

It is an easy way for farmers to get a pulse check on the key climate conditions on their farm and wider area and supports farmers to make decisions early and plan for drought.

The tool shows a 'traffic light warning system' for drought based on live rainfall, soil temperature, soil moisture, and evapotranspiration data from the council's 50 climate stations around the region.

Download the app from <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/farmers-hub/drought-crisis-hub/drought-risk-indicator/>

Tail-docking in sheep

Tail docking is done for cleanliness and to reduce the risk of flystrike. If you tail dock your sheep, make sure you know about the new requirements. The new regulations, which came in on 9 May 2021, stipulate that lambs under the age of six months can be docked by a competent person using either a hot iron or rubber ring. No other methods of tail docking are permitted. Failure to comply can mean a fine of up to \$1,500.

There is also a new requirement that the length of the docked tail must be no shorter than the end of the caudal fold – the fold of skin that runs from the underside of the tail to either side of the anus.

This brings New Zealand's regulations into line with those of our major trading partners, which require the docked tail to entirely cover the vulva in ewe lambs and an equivalent length in males. Failure to comply can mean an infringement fee of \$500, with fines on conviction for repeat offences of up to \$1,500 for an individual and \$7,500 for a body corporate. Tail length will be assessed at the slaughter plant.

Docking the tail of a lamb older than six months is a veterinary-only procedure.

For more information check out <https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/animal-welfare-obligations-painful-husbandry-procedures-sheep.pdf>



Correct position of tail docking ring



A human has similar bones as an animal but in different proportions. These pictures demonstrate what it would be like if the human foot had the same bone structure as another animal's foot. Left to right we have human, dog, horse and bird.