

Skip's Release Instructions

Skip's care instructions created by Betsy Hutchens and Erin Rossi on July 15, 2003

If there are any questions or concerns please call

Safari Animal Care Centers

281-332-5612



Skip's Vital Statistics

Birth Date: 01/05/0199

Breed: Schipperke

Sex: Male

Temp: Normal

Color: Black

Weight: Normal

Skip's Guardian

Garner, Steven

2414 Bayou Drive

League City, Texas 77573

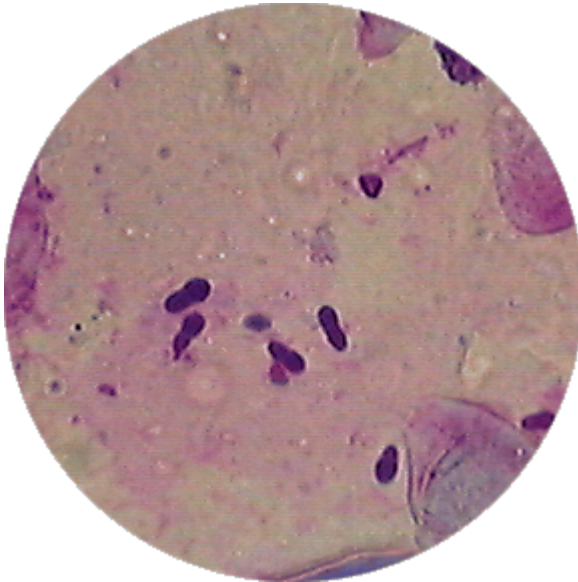
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Ear Problem Release Instructions



Ear Conditions

Yeast Otitis



Your pet has presented with Yeast Otitis. Yeast infections in the ear are extremely common and tend to be persistent. A yeast infection usually occurs in an ear that has high moisture content and the correct, low acid balance. Low acid or alkaline environments are necessary for yeast growth. Bacteria, on the other hand, usually create or require an acid environment. Yeast infections in humans are commonly treated with acidifying solutions of vinegar and water; yet these are not as effective in dogs, so specific medications that will kill the yeast are used. Also, consideration should be given to the elimination of the predisposing causes of the infection.



History

Shaking Head

Head shaking is a common sign of ear disease and is usually the natural way of removing excessive wax and discharge from the ear canal. Shaking of the head can also indicate that your pet is trying to "pop" or "clear" his ears, and may actually be a sign of pharyngitis (throat inflammation) or auditory tube disease. Excessive shaking can cause the blood vessels in the ear canal to rupture resulting in an aural hematoma. An aural hematoma causes the earflap to thicken greatly requiring surgical drainage and repair.

Chronic Ear Disease

Ear disease can be frustrating to treat, and poor or incomplete response to therapy is common. If these medications are not effective, additional testing will be recommended such as a culture and sensitivity test. Thyroid testing as well as allergy testing may also be recommended. Surgical opening of the ear canal is sometimes necessary if improper drainage of ear secretions is a perpetuating factor in the ear disease process.

Abnormal Behavior

Wants Ears Rubbed

A pet that wants his or her ears rubbed is usually not just looking for affection, but is also looking for relief from some form of irritation in the ear canals. The most common causes are mild bacterial or yeast infections, or allergic inflammation of the ear.

Odor From Ears

The ears, mouth, skin and rectum are the major sources of odor on your pet. Odor from the ears usually indicates infection. Bacterial and yeast infections are the most common cause of odor from the ears. Ear flushing to remove the excessive wax and organic material causing the odor is usually the first step. Following an accurate diagnosis, the appropriate medication will be recommended to kill the organism causing the infection.

Physical Examination Findings

Hyperplastic

This term indicates that the ear canal has thickened. Proliferation of the skin and glands within the skin lining the ear canal has caused the canal to narrow. Narrowing of the ear canal perpetuates ear disease by reducing air circulation, drying and drainage.



Discharge

Cheesy

Cheesy discharge from the ear canal usually indicates a chronic or long-standing condition of ear canal infection.



Ear Flap Lesions

Inflamed

Inflammation is the hallmark of disease in the ear. Inflamed ears are painful and difficult to medicate. Inflammation causes the ears to produce more wax and debris in the ear canal, which impedes drying and medication effectiveness. Chronic or long-term inflammation will cause the ear canals to thicken, narrow and calcify. Most ear medications contain anti-inflammatory drugs to combat this complication of ear disease.



Diagnostic Recommendations

Ear Cytology

An ear swab stain is essential to the proper diagnosis and therapy for any ear infection. This simple test can determine the type of infection: bacterial, yeast, mixed, or other, and can serve as an accurate guide for medication. An ear swab is taken from your pet's ear canal and placed on a microscope slide. The slide is then heat fixed (heated to melt the wax away from the organisms) and stained. It is then examined under a microscope for evidence of infection, inflammation, or other causes of disease.



Treatment Recommendations

Ear Flush

Because of its shape, the ear canal tends to trap and retain glandular secretions (wax), debris from cells, foreign bodies, hair, and moisture. This material build-up prevents medications from reaching the problem areas and may inactivate antibiotic medications. Therefore, a flushing and cleaning of the ear canal prior to therapy is recommended. This procedure may require sedation if the ear canal is painful.

Topical Medications Dispensed

Otomax

Apply to affected ear twice daily Topical medications should be applied as directed. The tip of the medication tube or dropper should not touch the ear, as this will allow for spread from one ear to another.

Betadine Flushing

Betadine flushing is necessary as long as the drain tube is in place. This allows additional flushing of any material or discharge present in the Bulla. The flush should be warm and "tea" colored.

Pain control

Rimadyl

Rimadyl is a powerful medication for pain that comes as a chewable tablet. Rimadyl, like most pain medicines, can cause stomach or intestinal upsets and should only be giveN to pets with normal liver and kidney values.

Rimadyl - 75 mg chewable tablets - Rimadyl chewable tablets are palatable and willingly consumed by your pet when offered by hand. The tablets can be halved by placing the tablet on a hard surface and pressing down on both sides of the score. Care should be taken to ensure that your pet consumes the complete dose.



Exercise

Dry Ears

Keep the ears dry - no swimming - use a drying solution if the ears become wet or after bathing.

Elizabethan Collar

An Elizabethan collar (restraint device worn around the pet's neck to keep him from reaching the lower parts of the body with his mouth) will be necessary to prevent premature suture removal and to prevent self trauma.



Additional Information

Facial Nerve Palsy

This surgery has a high percentage of success in the control of your pet's ear disease. Many cases will have nerve damage as a result of the close involvement of the facial nerve with the diseased ear canal. Facial neurapraxia will usually resolve within 30 days of the surgery but some cases have permanent nerve damage. In these cases, eye medications will be necessary to prevent the eye from drying because of diminished blink reflex.

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Additional Therapies Ears

Your pet may require additional medications or therapies if the prescribed medications are not effective.

Deafness Chronic Ear Disease

The supposition with animals that have ear disease as well as hearing impairment is that the ear disease is blocking the conduction of the sound to the inner ear structures. For this to be significant, both ears would have to be affected and the ear canal obliterated, ear drum ruptured, or auditory ossicles damaged. In most cases, this type of damage causes relatively little hearing loss. Therefore, if your pet is deaf, it may not be just the external ear disease that is causing his problem, but also nerve damage - possibly secondary to medications used to treat the ear disease in the past.



Medical Progress Report

Ear Disease Medical Progress Report

Ear disease may be difficult to control and simple infections tend to become more complex infections if not managed effectively. We recommend medical progress reports (recheck examinations) to examine and clean the ears and evaluate the effectiveness of medications. Sedation and flushing of the ears may be required during this visit.

Recheck in 7 Days - We recommend that you schedule an appointment in seven days for us to evaluate your pet's ear disease.



Symptoms to be Concerned About

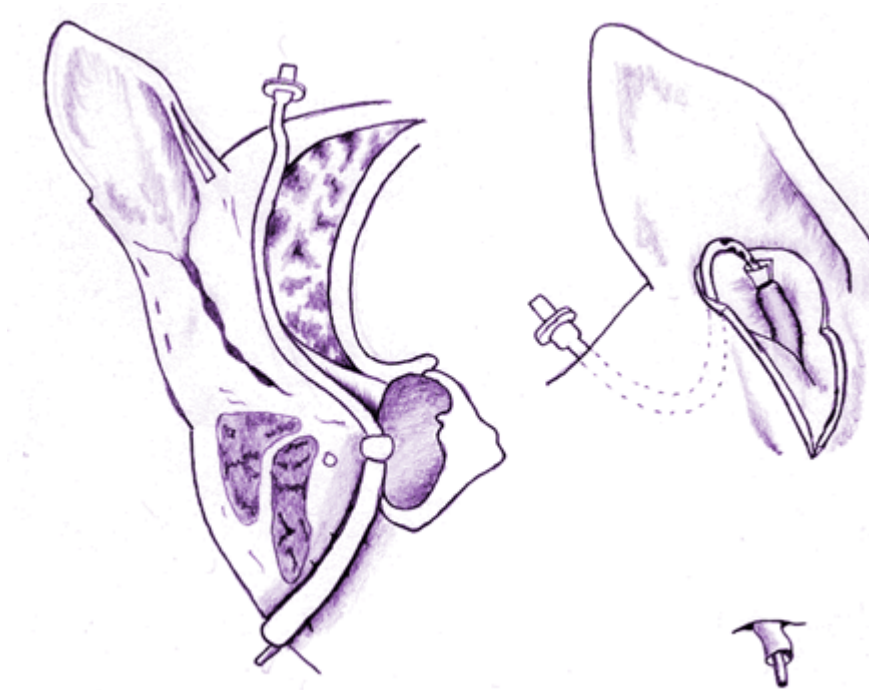
Painful or irritated ear canals

Painful or irritated ear canals can be difficult to medicate. If the medication is not applied correctly it cannot work. If the ear is too painful for you to medicate then please call the office so that alternative medications can be administered. Shaking the head, digging at the ears with the feet, rubbing the ears on the ground or furniture are signs of perpetuating disease and need further attention.

Ear Surgery



TECA- Total ear canal ablation



This is a salvage procedure involving the removal of the entire vertical and horizontal ear canal including the cartilage and epithelium. This procedure is indicated when disease of the horizontal canal is present.

Laser Surgery

Why laser surgery?

Less Pain - The laser seals nerve endings as it "cuts." As a result, your pet will experience less pain and be more comfortable post-operatively.

Less Bleeding - The Laser seals small blood vessels during surgery. This speeds many procedures, reducing the time your pet needs to be under anesthesia, which further reduces possible complications.

Less Swelling - Laser energy does not crush, tear or bruise tissue because the only thing that touches your pet is an invisible beam of light.

What does this mean for my pet?

Reduced risk of infection - As the laser removes diseased tissue, it seals the skin and reduces the amount of bacteria present.

Precision - The laser can remove unhealthy tissue while minimizing adverse effects to healthy surrounding tissue.

Quick return to normal activities - Healing is rapid and there is less post-operative discomfort and a better course of healing.

T.E.C.A.

TECA is indicated in animals with chronic otitis externa that has failed to respond to appropriate medical therapy. Some cases of chronic ear disease have severe calcification of the ear canals that prevents any further medical intervention from being successful. TECA is usually performed in conjunction with a lateral bulla osteotomy.

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Home Care Following Surgery

Your pet has just had a major surgery under general anesthesia. This surgery was performed after a period of fasting. Your pet has also been in a strange and stressful environment for a period of time. All of these factors contribute to the following recommendations: Please do not allow your pet to overeat or drink too much when returning home. Please do not allow your pet to run outside without a leash for the next 7 days. Please observe your pet for intestinal upsets.

Elizabethan

An Elizabethan collar (restraint device worn around the pet's neck to keep him from reaching the lower parts of

- Collar** the body with his mouth) will be necessary to prevent premature suture removal and to prevent self trauma.
- Deafness** The supposition with animals that have ear disease as well as hearing impairment is that the ear disease is blocking the conduction of the sound to the inner ear structures. For this to be significant, both ears would have to be affected and the ear canal obliterated, ear drum ruptured, or auditory ossicles damaged. In most cases, this type of damage causes relatively little hearing loss. Therefore, if your pet is deaf, it may not be just the external ear disease that is causing his problem, but also nerve damage - possibly secondary to medications used to treat the ear disease in the past.
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Robin Scott DVM, DABVP

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League City, Texas 77573
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24 Hour Emergency
Number 281 332 5612