



2021

Otitis Doctor Guidelines

Department: Medicine	Initials	Date
Created	AS	8/19/21
Updated or Approved	TS	8/21

Initial required diagnostics: Exam with microscopic ear cytology

- If significant amount of debris, ear mite eggs, or visible ear mites on otoscope exam - also run mite slide.
- Mites are more common in kittens or puppies - every kitten or puppy with clinical signs of ear infection should have an ear mite slide.

If debris but no bacteria or yeast on cytology: Send ear cleaner and instructional video

If mites seen on cytology

- Ensure cats on prevention that includes ear mites (selamectin, sarolaner, fluralaner, imidacloprid/moxidectin)
- For topical: Milbemite for cats, tresaderm for dogs
- Other cats and dogs in household must be treated if initial treatment does not resolve mites
- Multi-cat households are recommended to treat all cats with revolution

For any infection with redness and swelling: Otitis setting laser therapy in addition to topical medication

If the animal cannot be medicated at home: Claro ear treatment should be applied in-clinic unless otherwise indicated. *Not approved for use in cats, need to have a conversation with the owner.

Guidelines for choosing a topical medication:

- No medication with chlorhexidine should ever be applied into the ears (likely to cause deafness)
- Tresaderm and Milbemite are the only approved topical medications for cats, these should be chosen unless there is difficulty medicating at home.
- If any concern for ear drum rupture, choose Baytril Otic or saline
- No acetic acid products should be used for cats
- For persistent infections with inflammation: Remove 25mL from TrizEDTA 4oz flush. Add 12mL large animal baytril and 15mL dexamethasone.

In-clinic ear cleaning vs flush:

- Ear cleaning - for patients with severe ear discharge (require more than 2-4 swabs)
- Ear flush - for patients with impacted canal after a course of treatment

Follow-up Care

- Client communication: Must ensure client can administer ear drops at home, send instructional video unless client does not have email. Use CEVA ear rack card if they don't have video access.
- Every ear infection should be scheduled for an MPE with a doctor or a doctor-approved nurse recheck in 2-4 weeks. This recheck must include an ear cytology.