

**Mancelona Veterinary Hospital
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HEMATOMA OF THE EAR FLAP

What is an ear hematoma? Hematoma of the ear flap is an accumulation of blood between the cartilage and skin of the ear flap. This accumulation of blood creates that swollen feeling to your pet's ear.

What causes an ear hematoma? The most common cause of an ear hematoma in dogs is an ear infection or other irritation within the ear, such as allergies. Ear infections and allergies cause irritation to the ear, resulting in shaking of the head. The hematoma is caused by damage to the cartilage or overlying skin from vigorous repeated head shaking or scratching at the ears with the back feet. Less commonly, allergic skin disease, immune disorders or blood clotting deficits can be the cause of ear hematomas.

How to treat your pet's hematoma. The fluid within the hematoma needs to be drained, and in most cases the ears need to be treated for an infection. The veterinarian will lance the hematoma and drain the fluid under anesthesia. In most cases, sutures will be placed through the ear flap along with an incision to allow the ear to heal and maintain normal shape. If nothing is done the ear will usually constrict and shrivel while healing and be malformed.

Important points in treatment

- Give all medication as directed.
- Don't be alarmed as there will be a small open incision on the inside of your pet's ear. Please be advised that there will be at times a small amount of drainage that may come from your pet's ear. This incision will completely heal with time.
- Offer your pet a small amount of water 6-8 hours after their procedure. After an hour you may offer them a small amount of food. If your pet experiences vomiting, pick up their food and water and try again in the morning.
- Keep your pet quiet for the next couple of days.
- E-Collars are available for purchase, to prevent your pet from scratching at their ear, and are highly recommended. If your pet scratches, they may remove the sutures prematurely.
- SUTURE REMOVAL IS NEEDED IN 3 WEEKS. No appointment is necessary for a suture removal. We are available Monday-Friday, just call our office and let us know when you will be coming, for a minimal wait time.
- You may clean around the incision with small amounts of hydrogen peroxide.
- Contact our office if fluid continues to accumulate under the skin.