

Total Ear Canal Ablation

In cases with chronic ongoing unmanageable ear infections, Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA) can be considered to manage this severely painful process.

The aim of the surgery is to remove the diseased ear canal in its entirety. The ear canal is often very thickened and inflamed. Infection often extends into the middle/ inner ear, and as a result opening and flushing out the tympanic bulla is recommended to remove all sources of potential recurrence.

Surgery:

A T shaped incision is made over the ear canal and the entirety of the ear canal cartilage is removed at its base where it joints to the auditory opening.

Post-Operative Care:

There will be skin sutures where the incision has been made. Several pain killers will be provided as well as antibiotics as appropriate.

Wound Care:

Please check this area twice daily, there should not be any pain, swelling, redness or discharge from the wound. A buster collar should be used to prevent interference for the first 10-14 days after surgery.

Outcome:

Once your pet has progressed past the recovery period (2-3weeks), comfort is usually excellent.

Risks and Complications:

All surgeries have potential complications. Approximately 5% of patients develop a post-operative infection. Fistulas, tracts and wound problems can develop as well as resistant infections, which are more common than with other procedures. A swab is often taken to ensure correct antibiotics are used.

Deafness is not uncommon post-operatively.

15% of patients have facial nerve paralysis (reduced ability to blink and lubricate eye) which is usually temporary.

