

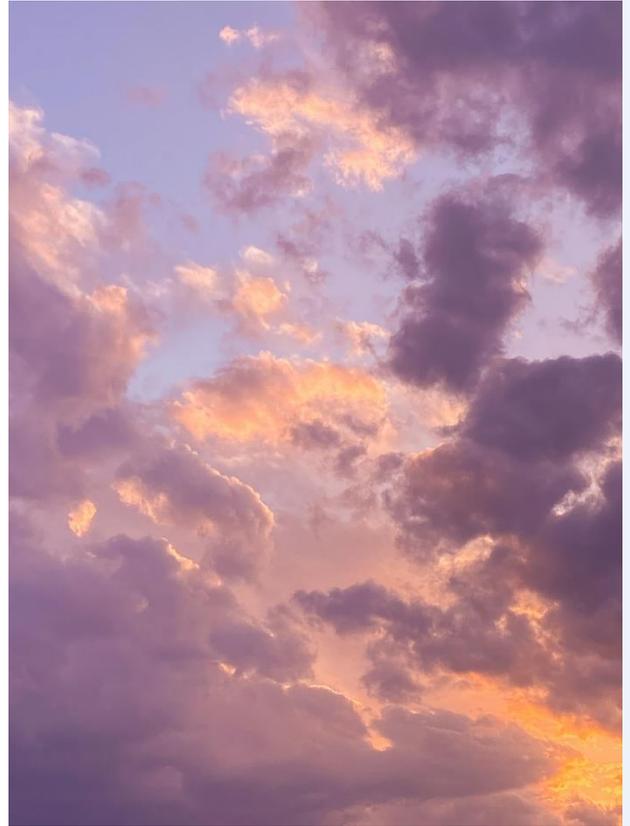
THE KNOX BOX

What's new at the Knox Vet Clinic

Storms and sunshine

The daily hustle and bustle continues at KVC. Thank you as always to everyone who has been patient and understanding with us; you mean more to us than you know!

People say life is full of ups and downs but for many of us here in Melbourne it may feel like we've been stuck in the ditch for so long, we've forgotten what the sky looks like. No doubt there have been rough times all round, loss and upheaval (literally even an earthquake). But let us remember that we are all going through this, some of us worse than others, and a few kind words go much further than snapping at others out of frustration. And remember that in the end, even on the stormiest of days or with the brightest of rainbows, underneath all that impermanence, the sky is still brilliant blue.



Ask Dr. Knox



Ever wondered why dogs chase their tails or if a product is worth it? Well now you can send in your most embarrassing questions! Feel free to engage your curious kids as well!

Q: Why does our dog fart so much? (A 9-year-old)

A: Well, that's because of all those crunchy bugs and possum poo they eat, you know, with the same tongue they lick you with... Only kidding. Just like humans, the usual reason for flatulence is diet. Like how certain foods can cause you to be gassy for a day or two, but if the dog eats it all the time there's no escape. Try changing their food, e.g. one with high quality fibre, and remember to transition the change over a week because too much variety can also cause an upset. If that doesn't solve it, come see us to make sure there are no underlying problems that could be causing these issues.



FEATURE TOPIC:

Ear infections

Want to win \$100 credit towards your next visit with us? Tag us on social media @knoxvetclinic and #octobrear, with a photo of your pet enjoying an ear rub, to enter the draw!



<https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/the-challenge-chronic-otitis-dogs-diagnosis-treatment/>

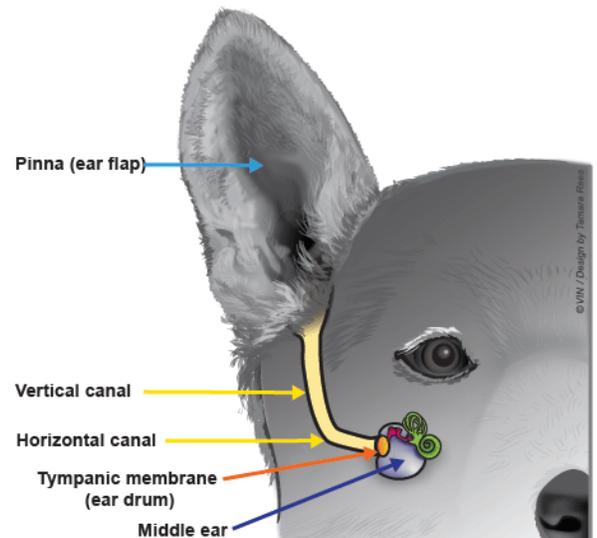
Ear infections are one of the most common and frustrating issues for owners and vets. Treatments are time-consuming and painful to apply, and sometimes just don't go away. They occur much more often in dogs but cats are not immune to it. I once saw a cat who suddenly developed an infection in one ear, even though she was well taken care of with flea and mite prevention and never messed around in dirt or puddles. We eventually deduced it was because she likes drinking from the tap and must have dunked her head too far one time and got water in her ear!

Dogs are prone to ear infections due to their ear structure, where wax and debris must travel upwards. Hairy ear canals, skin issues, swimming, or bathing also increase the risk. Dampness in the ear during warm spring weather creates an ideal environment for bacteria and yeast to multiply. Keep an eye out for the following signs:

- Shaking their head or flapping ears
- Scratching around the head and ears
- An unpleasant smell
- Redness of the ear and/or brown or yellow muck around their ears
- Pain, whining or flinching when patted

A simple ear infection can be treated with ear drops but we do need to see your pet as we cannot tell what kind of infection, what else is in the ear or what kind of treatment they need. 'Home remedies' like yogurt, green tea or grapefruit extract are also more likely to cause further damage and pain. Things can also get complicated if their eardrum is ruptured, as treatment options reduce significantly and most drugs in the middle or inner ear will cause other issues.

The best prevention you can do at home is to clean as required (not too often) with a proper ear cleaner and keep those ears dry, especially after baths or swims. Dry out the outer parts of the ears gently with cotton balls and never use cotton tips inside the canals so you don't drive the gunk deeper. And come see us before they get worse, more painful, and more difficult to treat.



<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951507>

Pets of the Month



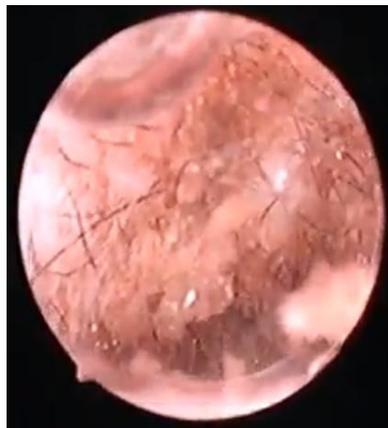
One of our VIPs (Very Important Pug) at Pug Rescue Vic has been through some tough few months! He suffered from anxiety and had terrible ear infections, and then had airway surgery to top it all off. When we first saw Gregory, we noted bacteria and yeast, plus a possible rupture of his right eardrum. Ear infections in Pugs are harder to treat due to their extremely squished ear canals. We needed an ear flush under anaesthesia to confirm the rupture and some medications to bring down the inflammation.

On the day of surgery, we actually found both eardrums were ruptured so we had to use a special solution that was tolerated in the middle ear. His very dedicated carer had to apply these drops daily (and some of you with Pugs may understand what a struggle this could be!). After weekly rechecks and fast forward to *four weeks* later, the infection was still brewing. The decision was made to go for a repeat ear flush to clear out the remainder of some dried wax that was stuck in the canal.

We had hoped the eardrums were in the process of healing, but both turned out to be still ruptured. On the plus side, minimal bacteria and yeast were seen, which meant we just needed to clear out the waxy debris and wait for the eardrums to heal.

Unfortunately, Gregory developed *another* ear infection by the time we saw him next week! So, it was back on the special drops daily for another two weeks which sorted the infection out. He was booked in for airway surgery with our visiting specialist in three weeks, so we had a third scope to check on the eardrums at this time... and finally, *finally* they were healed and intact!

Brachycephalic airway surgery is a whole other story for another time, but you could imagine the intensive few months Gregory has been through, and huge kudos to Pug Rescue for their amazing care!



Still from Gregory's first ear scope, look at all the wax and debris in his ear canal!

