



Southern Counties

VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS

Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA)

Information Sheet

**Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists
Specialist Referral Service**

What is TECA?

A TECA is a surgical procedure for dogs and cats in which a chronically painful ear canal, that cannot be treated successfully with other methods, is removed to provide comfort. This procedure does not remove the external ear itself (called the pinna) but the cartilage canal that leads to the ear drum and middle ear cavity.

When is a TECA indicated?

A TECA surgery is typically done to treat ears affected by chronic infections, in which medical treatment is not successful any longer and the only solution is to surgically remove the infected tissues. Other, less aggressive surgeries, can be tried in mild cases but a full TECA may be the only solution if the canal is already occluded by inflamed/infected scar tissue.

What can I expect after the procedure?

The surgery removes the cartilage canal, ear drum area and cleans up the middle ear cavity, respecting the ear flap itself so there should be no or very little change to the patient's cosmetic appearance after the procedure.

Effectively, hearing is lost on that side but most pets needing this surgery are almost deaf prior to surgery due to the filling of the canal with scar tissue and destruction of the ear drum. Although this surgery can be done on both sides, simultaneously or at different times, the owners never feel their pets are truly deaf, since they can easily relate to their owners picking up vibrations from the floor, interpreting body language and visual cues, leading a normal life. Owners typically will report that pets are happier after the surgery and the ears can be handled and stroked in complete comfort. There should be no need to medicate the area at all after the surgery, another welcome benefit of the procedure.

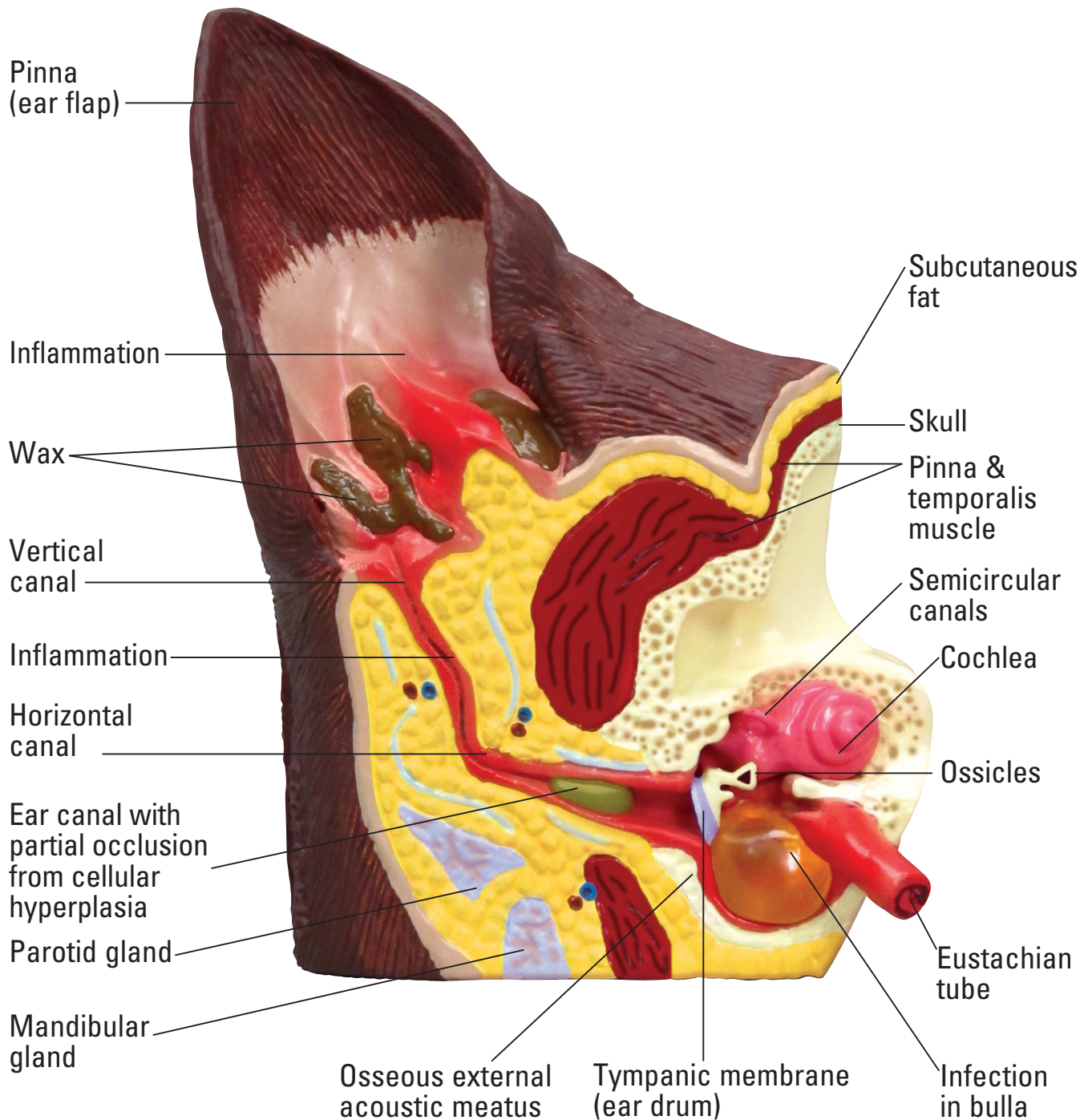
What happens when my pet goes home after the surgery?

Typically, your pet will go home after one night of hospitalization following the surgery, on pain medication and, perhaps, antibiotics. An Elizabethan collar may be indicated to avoid scratching at the incisions for the initial two weeks. Short lead walks and quiet life at home for those two weeks, until the tissues heal and the sutures, if present, are removed, may be all that is necessary before full recovery.



CANINE EAR

Pathology View



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