



Blue Cross Veterinary Hospital

Ear Hematoma Repair

Your pet has been diagnosed with an aural (ear) hematoma. This condition occurs when a blood vessel ruptures in the pinna (ear flap). The blood from the erupted blood vessel collects to form a large clot making the pinna swollen and painful. The recommended correction for this condition is surgery.

Ear hematomas often develop when the pet itches at its ears or shakes its head violently. Ear scratching and head shaking can be signs of underlying ear infections, allergies, ear mites or foreign bodies (commonly fox tails) in the ear canal. These underlying conditions must be identified and corrected for hematoma repair to be successful. Often an ear cytology, ear cleaning, oral and topical medications are needed.

In order to correct an ear hematoma an incision needs to be made along the inner surface of the ear to remove the blood clot. The skin of the ear is then tacked down so that no new blood clots can form. The incision that is made is only partially closed to allow for drainage of blood from the site. Often the ear is wrapped tightly to the head in order to apply pressure to the ear and to avoid head shaking. An E-collar is needed to keep the pet from scratching the ear and to keep the bandage in place.

As with any surgical procedure there are potential complications with ear hematoma surgery. In some cases the ear may heal at a slightly different angle or position than previously (it might stand up or fold over). More commonly there is a risk of reoccurrence. In some cases the incision heals over and keeps the ear from draining and the hematoma can reoccur. It is also possible that the repair will be successful but the pet will go on to develop a new hematoma in the same ear, or in the other ear, at some point in the future. It is important that you understand that if the hematoma were to reoccur you would be responsible financially for any and all treatments necessary for an additional repair.

In some rare cases, when an owner is not able to proceed with surgical correction of an ear hematoma due to financial constraints, a small needle can be placed in the ear. This needle is used as an attempt to drain the hematoma without undergoing surgery. This type of repair is known to have a greater complication rate including infection and a much higher failure rate. If the repair fails or if no treatment is attempted in weeks to months the hematoma will shrink down leaving the ear scarred and possibly deformed.

I consent and authorize **Blue Cross Veterinary Hospital doctors and staff to do all necessary treatments and procedures for the correction of my pet's ear hematoma.** I understand that with any medical procedure there are risks involved and I accept these risks. In particular, I have been made aware of the risk of reoccurrence. I understand that if any of these problems develop I will be financially responsible for any and all follow up care for those conditions. I further understand that no guarantee of successful treatment has been made. If the hematoma does reoccur and I proceed with a second surgery I will be financially responsible for the complete cost of the additional surgery and all after care. I am owner or agent for the owner of the below-named animal and have the authority to execute this consent. I therefore consent and authorize the performance of the ear hematoma repair procedure.

Pet's name _____

Signature (owner/agent): _____ Date: _____