

## SURGICAL TREATMENT OF OTITIS IN DOGS AND CATS. REVIEW

Vidmantas Bižokas, Vilius Skipskis, Juozas Kvalkauskas  
*Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilzes str. 18, LT-47181 Kaunas, Lithuania;*  
*Tel. +370 37 363205; e-mail: v.bizokas@lva.lt*

**Summary.** Dogs and, less frequently, cats are commonly affected by infections of the external and middle ear (*Otitis externa* and *media*). Cocker Spaniels, Dachshunds, Bassets, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds are notoriously susceptible to repeated ear infections. Cats resistance to the ear disease is significantly higher compared to dogs, although there are breeds (e.g. Persians) which are rather susceptible. Treatment of ear infections depends on the severity of the problem. Simple infections can usually be treated successfully medically. In cases where the infection does not respond to medical management, or in cases where the infection recurs, surgery might be necessary.

The article aims to review most frequent causes predisposing surgical intervention as well as to describe procedures and surgical methods being applied in the treatment of inflammation of external and middle ear. Predisposing, persistent or initial factors causing inflammation of external and middle ear are frequently resulting in surgical treatment of the ear. The techniques for tumour and polyps removal, as well as surgical methods such as removing the entire vertical canal (called a Vertical Canal Ablation) or just the wall of the vertical canal (called a Lateral Wall Resection, or a Zepp Procedure), and more radical surgery such as a Total Ear Canal Ablation, lateral and ventral Bulla Osteotomy are reviewed. Their advantages and shortcomings are also analyzed.

**Key words:** dogs, cats, otitis, surgical treatment.