

Pseudomonas Otitis

The bacteria responsible for this *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is found in the environment and likes a warm moist environment. It often becomes resistant to antibiotics so a sample is taken for culture and sensitivity to determine the correct antibiotic for treatment.

The organism is killed by an acid environment so flushing the ear with a mixture of 5 parts water to one part of white vinegar twice a day using a bulb syringe is helpful. However, this solution may be irritating and not tolerated by the animal.

If the animal does not tolerate the vinegar and water flush an alternative is AloCetic which is acetic but is less irritating. The ear is to be flushed twice a day with this solution using a bulb syringe.

T-8 solution or EDTA-Tris is often used to flush the ear before putting an antibiotic in the ear. Its purpose is to wash the slime off the the bacteria and open up the pores of the bacteria so the antibiotic can penetrate and kill the bacteria.

We may also use an ear cleaning solution called Earigant^R. This solution releases chlorine which kills the bacteria. The bacteria can not become resistant to the chlorine in this cleaner.

On initial examination an antibiotic will be selected based on history of what has been used in the past. It may have to be changed once the culture is completed by the laboratory and the specific antibiotics that the organism is sensitive to are known.

This organism causes the lining of the ear canal to become ulcerated and painful. Because of this dexamethasone will often be dispensed to reduce the inflammation and help ease the pain.

Dr. McKeever will want to be performing progress exams on the animal every two weeks until the condition is cleared. In some cases there are predisposing conditions (such as allergies) present that may allow return of the infection. In these cases a control program is instituted to try and prevent re-infection.