

Dick White Referrals

CENTRE OF VETERINARY EXCELLENCE

The Otology Clinic - A Multidisciplinary Service

Chronic ear disease in dogs and cats is rarely a simple entity. It often involves an underlying dermatological cause, may cause neurological complications and can necessitate both medical and surgical management.

The Otology Clinic is a unique concept that brings together for the first time, a fully integrated team of specialists within Dick White Referrals, all of whom have expertise in treating the various aspects of ear disease.

These specialists include:

- Dr Rosario Cerundolo Dermatology
- Dr Giunio Bruto Cherubini MRI / Neurology
- Professor Dick White Surgery

Chronic ear disease, defined as ear disease lasting longer than 6 weeks, is often associated with a yeast and / or bacterial infection. However, the most common underlying cause of this is an allergic skin disease. A thorough dermatological investigation and particularly an allergic disease work up, is essential to establish the underlying cause and importantly, to prevent recurrence of the ear disease.

Two-thirds of dogs with otitis externa have a ruptured ear drum or an infection involving the middle ear (otitis media). This can give rise to neurological complications resulting from the middle ear disease or even extension to the inner ear (otitis interna). A neurological assessment of the patient is an important and all too often overlooked aspect of successful ear disease management.

Once the underlying causes have been identified, the majority of chronic ear diseases can be resolved with appropriate medical management. However, in a few cases the condition has become too advanced and surgery may be the best solution. The complex anatomy of the middle and inner ear means that interventions involving these structures are most successfully undertaken by surgeons who have considerable relevant experience in this region.



Feline Ear Disease

Cats also often suffer from ear disease. However, in addition to the more well recognised problems, they have some particular conditions including middle ear polyps and tumour diseases, which, because of their unusual presentations, can easily be overlooked.

