



# VETEMIS

R E F E R R A L S

## Video Otoscopy

# Introduction:

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At EndoVet Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced diagnostics and treatments for your pet. This guide explains Video Otoscopy, why it may be recommended, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after the procedure. If you have further questions, our team is always happy to help.

## What is a Video Otoscopy?

Otoendoscopy, also known as video-otoscopy, is a procedure that enables detailed examination of your pet's ears. Using a small rigid endoscope with a camera and light, we can view and assess the ear canal and eardrum (tympanic membrane).

The procedure can be performed:

- Dry Procedure: On a conscious pet (in certain cases).
- Irrigation Procedure: More commonly, under general anaesthesia, with fluid flushing for a clearer view.

This advanced method allows us to diagnose and treat ear conditions more accurately than traditional tools like handheld otoscopes.

## Indications for a Video Otoscopy?

Video Otoscopy is recommended to investigate symptoms such as:

- Persistent ear infections or discharge.
- Signs of discomfort or head shaking.
- Polyps, ruptured eardrum, or suspected tumours.
- Neurological symptoms like head tilt, unsteady gait, abnormal eye movement (nystagmus), or Horner's syndrome.

Video Otoscopy is also used to diagnose external, middle, or inner ear diseases with greater accuracy than imaging techniques like X-rays.

## What are the risks?

### Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney, (thyroid) disease.

### Procedure-related Risks

- Bleeding: Minimal bleeding can occur during sample collection or growth removal but usually resolves quickly.
- Eardrum Perforation: The endoscope or instruments may cause a tear in the eardrum. This is rare and typically heals within 6–8 weeks without complications.
- Neurological Symptoms: Temporary issues such as head tilt, nystagmus, or imbalance may occur due to irritation of inner ear nerves. These usually resolve within 2–3 weeks.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to minimise these risks and ensure a successful outcome.

# Video Otoscopy Procedure:

## Pre-Operative Consultation

- Pre-clinical examination of your pet.
- Procedure discussion with a senior surgeon.
- For long-distance clients, a clinical examination may be carried out by your local vet and a phone consultation will be arranged with one of our senior surgeons prior to surgery.
- Medical Review: Please inform us of all your pet's medications, including over-the-counter treatments. Certain drugs, like steroids or NSAIDs, may need to be paused, and special instructions apply for pets with conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

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## Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 6–12 hours before the procedure.
- Water: Restrict water for 2–4 hours prior to arrival.
- Please make sure your pet has had the opportunity to go to the toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the consent form with you and answer any questions.
- Your pet will undergo a full clinical examination, and blood tests may be recommended to assess their overall health.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications as needed.

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## Video Otoscopy

- The endoscope is gently inserted into the ear canal to examine the ear structure and the eardrum.
- If the eardrum is ruptured, the middle ear may also be assessed.
- Samples may be taken for bacterial culture, sensitivity testing, or cytology (not painful for your pet).
- Treatments, such as removing foreign bodies, polyps, or tumours, or flushing the ear, may also be performed.
- After the procedure, residual fluid is removed to minimise discomfort.

The process typically takes 15–30 minutes per ear, depending on the condition.

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## Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Mild head shaking and minor fluid discharge from the ears are normal for 24–48 hours.

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## Home Recovery

- Anti-inflammatory medication may be administered to reduce any discomfort.
- You may be given ear drops or other medications to continue treatment at home

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## Next Steps & Follow Up

- Test results (e.g., biopsy or fluid analysis) are typically available within 7–10 days, and we will contact you to discuss the findings.
- Follow-up appointments may be scheduled to assess your pet's progress or provide further treatment if necessary.

# Further information

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## When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Severe head shaking or scratching.
- Swelling or redness around the ears.
- Loss of balance, vomiting, or unusual behaviour.

## Contact Us

To Refer a routine case, please use the referral form on our website.

Call:  
01543 373 033

Email:  
[Referrals@vetemis.co.uk](mailto:Referrals@vetemis.co.uk)

## Our Services

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To see our full list of services, visit:  
[www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk](http://www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk)

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