

Ear Trim Guide

Ear trim procedures are very parent involved. The final product is a team effort with you the parent, and the staff at Lineberger Veterinary Hospital.

The ideal age for an ear trim is 9-10 weeks old. You need to schedule your surgery date 1-2 weeks ahead to make sure you can get an appointment at the appropriate age.

Things to Avoid

In the summer time flies can be a problem. If this is the case with your puppy you can purchase a fly repellent from us to help with the problem.

If at anytime you notice your puppy is scratching at the ears you will need to let us know. You can then purchase an e-collar. This is to prevent them from harming the ears as they heal. The cost of an e-collar is \$11 - \$14.

What to Expect Post Surgery

When the puppy goes home after the surgery, he/she will have some dried blood on the ears. We do not clean the ears because as the blood dries it helps to stiffen the ears, which promotes standing. Occasionally, the doctor uses buttons and wire to help the ears stand. If this is the case with your puppy, the wire needs to be removed 1 week after surgery.

At the end of the first week, you may clean the ears by dabbing hydrogen peroxide soaked cotton balls on the ears. Be very careful not to let your puppy ingest any of the peroxide, as this can cause vomiting.

Two weeks post surgery the sutures will be removed. You can make this appointment at the time you pick up your puppy from surgery. After the sutures are removed, the ears need to be stretched. Using your thumb and forefinger, start at the base of the ear. Slowly and gently pull the ear along the edge moving all the way to the tip of the ear. Stretching is important to keep the edges of the ear from crinkling and the chance of scarring to a minimum. Usually after stretching the ears for a week, we need to see your puppy to determine if the ears need to be taped. If the ears do need to be taped, it is important to keep the tape dry. If the tape starts to have a bad odor, we need to be contacted. After the tape has been in place for one week, you will need to come back for us to remove the tape and re-check the ears. At that time the doctor will determine if anything else is necessary.