

Abscess

An abscess is a localized area or cavity filled with pus, which is a thick, cloudy, foul smelling fluid made up of bacteria, serum, white blood cells and dead tissue. Bite wounds, scratches or other sharp objects can easily puncture skin, introducing bacteria under the skin of your pet. Should the skin wound heal quickly, the bacteria become trapped, leading to the formation of infectious pockets.

Signs

- Swellings may feel warm to touch.
- Generalized pain
- Depressed with a decreased appetite
- Fever
- Hiding
- May rupture or drain pus like material prior to start of other signs.
- Excessive licking with hair loss and skin may look raw.

Treatment

The following treatments have been performed for your pet today depending on the size and severity of the abscess.

___ Lanced, drained and flushed abscess to remove as much infection as possible. Fluid may normally drain from the site where the abscess was lanced for 1-2 days.

___ Drain placement to allow further drainage to occur at home. An abscess does not drain *through* the tube, but rather, *around* it. Therefore, it is very important for you to clean the area around the drain twice daily with warm water

Please return in ___ days for a recheck and possible drain removal. An incision may have also been made to explore the abscess further and the sutures will need to be removed in 10-14 days.

___ Antibiotics to treat the bacterial infection.

___ An injectable antibiotic was given today and will be effective for 10-14 days.

___ An oral antibiotic was prescribed to be given at home

___ Anti-inflammatories or pain medication

___ Buster collar to prevent your pet from licking the area and/or removing the drain or sutures prematurely.

Home Care

- Apply a hot compress to the affected site at least 2 times daily for 3-5 days to help increase drainage. Wet a clean washcloth with very warm water, and place directly over the affected site, and apply gentle pressure for approximately 5-10 minutes.
- Be sure you and/or other family members wash your hands thoroughly after contacting any fluids draining from the abscess site.
- Please be sure to administer all prescribed medications exactly and completely. Some patients may begin to "feel better" after only a few days of treatment; however, it is crucial for medications to be administered according to schedule to prevent the infection from recurring.
- Do not apply any medicines, ointments, or home remedies unless directed to by a veterinarian
- Restrict your pet to indoor activities until the infection has resolved completely.
- Notify our clinic if your pet experiences increased redness at the abscess site, failure to heal or worsening of your pet's general health.