

SETTING

Suburban Clinic

CLIENT

You have a four-year-old de-sexed male cocker spaniel that has a large swelling on its left ear. It seems very painful as the dog has been shaking its head for three days and you are unable to touch it. The vet diagnoses a blood-filled swelling secondary to the shaking caused by a severe ear infection. He/she wants to give the dog a general anaesthetic to treat the cause of the otitis first. Then he/she will perform surgery on the swelling.

TASK

- Find out what is wrong with your dog.
- Explain that you do not want him to have a general anaesthetic (he was very sick after de-sexing).
- Resist the vet's suggested treatment.
- You want to know about the details of the treatment. Will the ear be normal again after the operation on the swelling?
- Be defensive about not seeking advice sooner, when told the swelling was caused by the underlying untreated ear infection. You care well for your dog!

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VET

The client has a de-sexed four-year-old male cocker spaniel presented with an aural haematoma over the entire pinna of the left ear and severe bilateral otitis externa.

TASK

- Describe how the condition (haematoma) has resulted from the dog shaking its head in response to the infection and the discomfort it causes
- Outline the plan - the ear infection is treated and a general anaesthetic will be given to correct the haematoma. The ears can be cleaned out thoroughly while the dog is under the anaesthetic.
- Persuade the client that surgery for the ear is necessary and find out what information you can provide to help with the decision making process.
- Describe the surgical procedure (incision of haematoma, removal of clots, etc., sutures to eliminate dead space, incision left open for drainage, removal of sutures in 14 days, ear drops for infection over this period).
- Explain the importance of having sore ears examined and treated immediately.