

PROTRUDING EAR

(BAT EAR, LOP EAR)

Protruding ears ([Inherited Conditions](#)) are common occurrences that frequently cause embarrassment to the owner, being the subject of juvenile taunts, or later self-image difficulty.



Protruding ears: 4 Patterns, as below.

Characteristics

Protrusions follow four main patterns. The external ear is comprised of typical skin and cartilage contours that vary only slightly in the great majority of individuals. Aberrations of the folds within the outer “helical” structure produce protrusion in four common patterns:

1. The most common is excessive depth of the cartilage that forms the bowl (concha) of the ear, causing the ear to stand out from the scalp.
2. The second abnormality, which often accompanies a deep bowl, is an undeveloped superior crus cartilage. This results in the upper ear folding forwards and outwards, exacerbating the prominence of an accompanying deep bowl.
3. The third is a less common fold-over of the helix (the rim of the auricle), forming a “Lop ear”.
4. Lastly, the upper cartilage of the ear may be over-developed, causing an “elephant ear” appearance.

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Other Locations

Beenleigh

Sunnybank

Mt Ommaney

Caboolture

Treatment

Correction of the first variety requires excision of part of the deep bowl, via an incision behind the ear. The reduced bowl then settles closer to the skull, minimising the protrusion.

The second procedure follows similar lines, and may be preceded by bowl reduction. The contour of the superior crus cartilage is corrected by weakening the cartilage and then suturing the resultant curved cartilage into the appropriate contour.

The last two problems are more complex to correct. The “lop” variety may require reinforcing grafts; the enlarged pinna, complex reduction.

After surgery, a head bandage may be left in place to allow the tissue to be unmolested for several days. Upon removal, the ear may be slightly swollen and the skin mildly “crinkled”, but these appearances fade with time.

More information

- [Protruding ears](#)

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