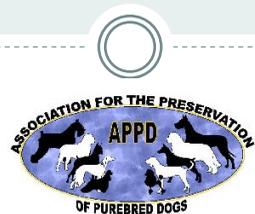


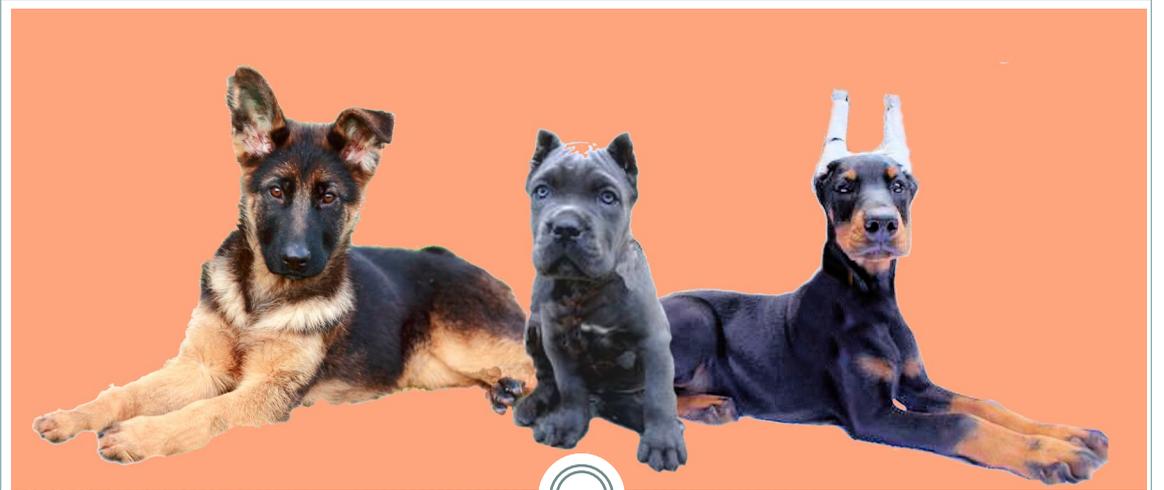
Association for the Preservation of
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Canadian based organization
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Ear cropping and corrective otoplasties for dogs.

*Produced by: APPD a partnership of
Veterinarians, Breed Clubs, Breeders
and Owners*

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EAR CROPPING:

Corrective otoplasties and Ear Cropping are medical and cosmetic surgical procedures of the ear.

Ear cropping surgeries are typically performed on over 20 different CKC/ AKC registered breeds. Breeds, such as Doberman Pinschers, Boxers, Great Danes, Beaucerons, and Schnauzers. Genetics have dictated which breeds' ears can be successfully cropped to stand erect. Nature provided strong ear muscles - but man bred for weak ears in the hounds to produce a drooping ear.

Ear surgeries have improved from those performed twenty or thirty years ago. Ear Cropping involves the reshaping, sculpturing, and contouring of the outer ear flap (pinna) to complete an erect standing ear, properly balanced and proportioned to the pet's conformation.

This involves placing the puppy under general anesthesia which with all surgeries including sterilizations, creates risk. The surgery is ideally performed between 7-20 weeks of age, depending on breed of dog (see ideal age chart).

While most dog owners choose to have this surgery for aesthetic reasons, the patient luckily benefits from the resultant health benefits long after the surgery.

Most veterinarians would agree that the incidence of ear infections in breeds with erect standing ears is far less than those in breeds with droopy, pendulous ears.

An experienced practitioner involved in many medical and surgical cases of the ear, would undeniably support this claim. That is why we support our veterinarians and our cropped breeds!

IDEAL AGES FOR EAR CROPPING OF VARIOUS AKC/CKC REGISTERED PUREBRED BREEDS

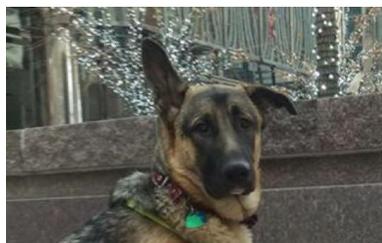
Affenpincher	12-20 weeks
Argentine Dogo	7-9 weeks
Beaucerons	7-9 weeks
Boston Terrier	12-16 weeks
Bouvier des Flanders	7-9 weeks
Boxer	7-9 weeks
Briard	7-9 weeks
Brussels Griffon	12-16 weeks
Cane Corso	7-9 weeks
Doberman	7-9 weeks
German Pinscher	7-10 weeks
Giant Schnauzer	7-9 weeks
Great Dane	7-9 weeks
Miniature Pinscher	12-20 weeks
Miniature Schnauzer	10-16 weeks
Neapolitan Mastiff	7-9 weeks
Perro de Presa	7-9 weeks
Pit Bull Terrier	7-9 weeks
Staffordshire Terrier	7-12 weeks
Manchester Terrier	8-9 weeks
Standard Schnauzer	7-9 weeks

EAR TAPINGS & BONDINGS

surgery after care involves suture removal. Once healed, support tapings or bonding. Not all breeds that have ear cropping performed need to be posted or supported. The length of crop and breed will determine the type posting. Posting is necessary for some, while the muscles and cartilage of the ear develop the strength necessary to allow the ears to stand erect.



Some Purebreds with naturally standing ears may also require taping or bonding. When the posterior auricular muscles in the ear are weak, they can not hold the weight of the pinna, resulting in ears that will not stand correctly. Taping the ears in the correct upright position, reduces the pull on the muscles, possibly resulting in upright ears.



EAR HEMATOMAS

Any dog can develop an ear hematoma. The problem develops easier in dogs with more pendulous ears, because heavy ear flaps easily slap against the side of the head during head shaking.

Ear hematoma is a collection of blood under the cartilage of the ear flap (pinna). A hematoma may result from excessive scratching of the ear, or shaking of the head, due to an underlying ear infection or allergy. It may also be caused through trauma or after a bite wound from another pet.

The hematoma can be treated by draining off the blood and the application of a special ear support. But most hematomas treated in this way will reoccur.



The best treatment of hematomas requires surgery. The surgery involves incising the hematoma, draining it, and inserting special stitches. A hematoma in any breed with erect ears will likely result in some breaking of the ear. The affected ear may never be able to stand again correctly.



EAR INFECTIONS



One of the biggest reasons for ear infections is simple anatomy. Dogs with floppy ears are more prone than dogs with upright ears because there is less air flow and moisture can't evaporate easily. If water gets in the ear and stays there it causes irritation which can lead to an infection. With upright ears there is good evaporation of the moisture. But floppy ears close off the ear canal and don't allow good evaporation. You then get a dark, warm, moist environment which make a great breeding ground for microorganisms.

Most commonly, ear infections can be treated with a professional cleaning followed by medication given at home. Your veterinarian may prescribe topical and/or oral medicine. It is not uncommon for some dogs to have recurrent ear infections.

If chronic ear infections are untreated they will lead to permanent damage to the ear canal. Over time this worsens, leading to hardening of the cartilage of the ear and disruption in the normal function of the canal lining. When an ear gets to this point it is impossible to completely resolve the infection, and the only solution is to surgically remove the ear canal (total ear canal ablation, or TECA).

Chronic or recurrent ear infections are very frustrating to deal with as a pet owner and can cause significant discomfort.