



Standard Operating Procedures  
Tier 1 Veterinary Medical Center  
Ear Cytology

|         |                                 |               |                |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
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| Part    | Ear Cytology                    | Issued by     | Administration |
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**Introduction:**

It is the standard operating procedure of Tier 1 VMC to provide quality in house diagnostic testing.

**The procedures for ear cytology as follows:**

**General Requirements:**

1. Swab BOTH of the patient's ears, break the left swab in half to differentiate each side
2. Gently roll each swab onto one slide, coordinate the swab with the same side of the slide. Another technique is to use the shape of an L for the left side, and an R for the right side. Label the slide with the patient's name in PENCIL, and the date on the frost
3. Heat fix the slide using a lighter (run the flame under the slide with the sample facing up, back and forth a few times)
4. Wipe the underside of the slide with a Kimwipe to remove any charring on the back of the slide
5. WEAR GLOVES! Using a clothes pin secure the slide and dip approx. 10 times in each of the three stains (blue, pink, purple) and rinse slide in between stains with distilled water. Be sure to dip the slide into the jars labeled for fecal and ears, not blood
6. Using the small bottle of saline/ distilled water or a VERY light stream from the sink, gently rinse the slide of any excess dye. Don't rinse directly over the sample, start from the corner and let it run down the slide
7. Place the slide on a paper towel to dry
8. Read the slide under the microscope:
  - a. Start on the lowest power (4x0.10) and bring the slide into focus
  - b. Move to the next power (10x0.25) to focus the slide
  - c. Move to the next power up again (40x0.65) and focus the slide. Scan the slide in a grid pattern. Recognizable abnormalities will be visible at this level. Scan for clusters of bacteria, yeast and debris
  - d. Once a good sample is visible in the field place a drop of immersion oil on the slide and move to the strongest power (100x1.25). Continue to scan in a grid pattern. When bacteria and or yeast is found count roughly how many are within that field. Record using the scale 1-3+/hpf, TNTC/hpf



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- e. If unsure of what is on the slide, be sure to ask another technician or doctor to look as well
2. When finished looking at the slide turn the microscope light OFF, wipe the 100x lens with a lens wipe, lower the platform all the way and remove slid
3. All results must be recorded in a medical note in eVet