

It Might be Mites

Ear mites are a common problem in cats. Learn how to treat them.

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If your cat's ears are itchy for more than a week, a visit to the veterinarian is in order.

Mites are microscopic parasites that can infest your cat's ear canals. These bugs are well-known but are not the only cause of ear problems. Mites are contagious between cats and dogs but not to humans. A microscopic examination of an ear swab will help a veterinarian determine whether mites, bacteria or yeast are present. An instrument called an otoscope allows a veterinarian to examine the ear canal and ear drum. Ear mites are easily cured with proper treatment. Most ear problems are treated with topical or oral medications. Take care when cleaning your cat's ears. To prevent damage to the ear drum, avoid inserting swabs into the ear canal.

- More on Parasite Control -