

Abscess

Abscesses form when pus from an infection cannot drain out of the body.

A pocket of infected material under the skin, or in deeper tissues, often occurs when a bite or other penetrating wound carries bacteria into the tissues. This kind of localized infection creates significant pain and tissue damage.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Localized swelling, sometimes associated with a puncture or wound
- Pain
- Fever
- Redness or pus drainage at the site
- Depression or lethargy
- Decreased appetite



▶ An abscess can be a serious threat to your pet's health.



How is it diagnosed?

- Recent history, like wounds or punctures
 - Clinical signs, like swelling and pain
 - Physical exam results, including aspiration of the swelling
 - Laboratory blood, culture, and sensitivity tests
- ▶ Laboratory tests are used to determine which antibiotics will help treat the infection.

How is it treated?

Treatment depends on the severity of the abscess. It typically involves antibiotics and pain medication. Most abscesses require surgery under anesthesia to remove the infected tissue, with a surgical drain that needs to be left in place for several days.

- ▶ Good wound care and cleaning are essential for healing.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications as prescribed
- Keep your pet indoors, carefully follow all wound care instructions, and make sure they wear their e-collar at all times
- Monitor your pet carefully and schedule checkups if you have concerns, or as recommended
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

