



Deaf Pets



Causes of Deafness in Pets

Congenital

- Hereditary- Boxer, Boston terrier, Dalmatian, Bull Terriers, Pitbulls- related to white coloring.
- Double Merle- herding breeds, great danes, doxies, chihuahuas, bulldogs,
- Breeders frequently cull white puppies and request euthanasia, white boxers- 1/7 will be deaf.
- Cats- gene defect linked to white hair coat and blue eyes, frequently linked to deafness

Acquired

- Injury- gun shots
- Chronic Infection, polyps, tumors
- Neoplasia
- Drug toxicities
- Aging changes

DIAGNOSING DEAFNESS

history, physical exam,
observation/behavior, BAER testing
(Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response), CT
and MRI

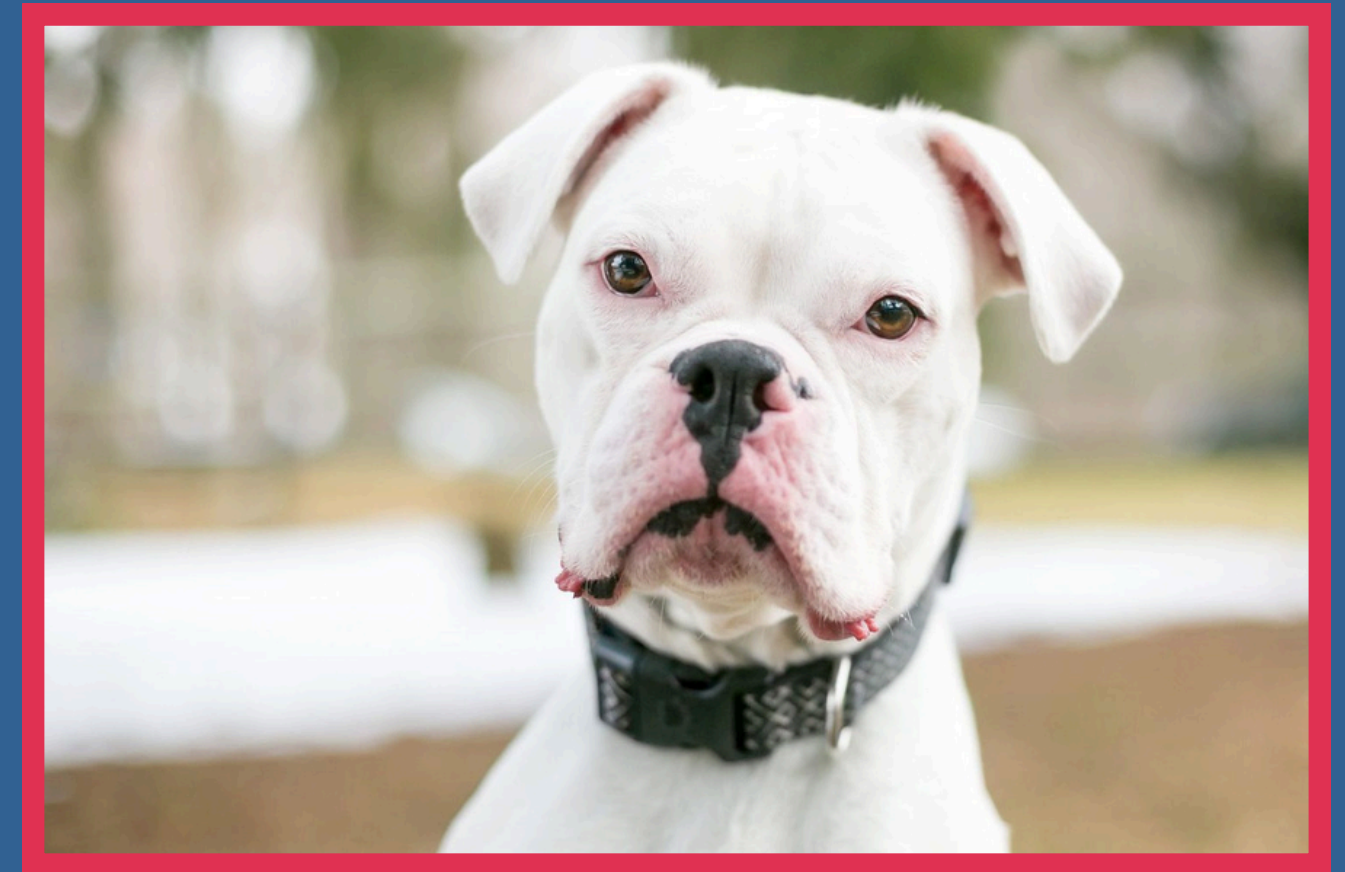
TREATMENTS

Ear infections:

- Medications- steroid, anti-fungal, antibacterial drops, ivermectin for mites
- Oral meds- antibiotics, anti-inflammatory,
- Regular cleaning with ear flush
- Surgical intervention for chronic inflammation, neoplasia, polyps

Polyps and neoplasia: surgery depending on nature of the lesions

Follow up with veterinarian for ongoing diagnostics, recommendations and treatment plans



Diagnosing Deafness in Pets

Caring for Deaf Pets

things you need to know

- **Dogs, cats, and others that are born deaf** are attentive and responsive to sign language and hand signals. They rely on their senses of sight, smell, and touch.
- Deaf pets miss verbal cues from other pets as well as people
- When animals **gradually become deaf**, they tend to adjust and adapt over time.
- May be **partial and asymmetric**- they seem to hear but can't figure out where the sound is coming from which can be confusing to some
- **Unilateral deafness** can cause severe anxiety bc animals can hear but can't locate sound. Must be kept safe (leash, fenced area, indoor cats) bc they can't place sound and commonly will run in the opposite direction of where they are being called from, unless they can see the person calling them.
- **Older, newly deaf dogs** and other animals may act confused and disoriented, especially if there are cognitive issues going on.
- Deaf animals **startle** easily, especially when sleeping.
- **Safety:** harnesses and leashes, fenced areas for dogs, indoor cats
- Many deaf pets learn **hand signals**

Support for Deaf Pet Parents

Webinar

Teaching Deaf, Blind, and Deaf Blind Dogs, concepts apply to all animals, not just dogs.

click [HERE](#)

Support

Support for pet parents with **deaf pets** is [HERE](#)

www.disabledpets.org