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Effect of Pendulous and Erect Pinna on Population Size and Frequency of *Malassezia globosa* and *Malassezia pachydermatis* in External Ear Canal of Healthy Dogs

Lim Jiehan & ¹Habibah Arshad

¹Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Abstract

Forty clinically healthy stray dogs were used to determine the effect of type of pinna on the population size and frequency of *Malassezia globosa* and *Malassezia pachydermatis* in external ear canal of healthy dogs. Two methods were used: cytological examination and fungal culture. The prevalence of *M. globosa* were 25 and 40% in pendulous and erect pinna, respectively. Both pinna recorded a very low mean count of 0.03 yeast/ hpf. However, no growth of colonies was seen on modified Dixon's agar, therefore, *M. globosa* could not be confirmed. This study confirmed a high prevalence of *M. pachydermatis* in dogs with pendulous pinna (90%) which was higher than in dogs with erect pinna (65%). High population size of *M. pachydermatis* can be isolated from dogs with pendulous pinna (1074 cfu per swab) and dogs with erect pinna (466 cfu per swab) using fungal culture. There was a strong association of occurrence of otitis externa and type of pinna which predisposed dogs with pendulous pinna to be twenty-one times more at risk of developing otitis externa than dogs with erect pinna.

Keywords: pendulous, erect, population size, frequency, *Malassezia globosa, Malassezia pachydermatis*, external ear canal.