**PROGNOSIS OF OTITIS**

* With otitis interna, inflammation impairs function of the vestibulocochlear nerve (cranial nerve VIII), resulting in:
* Hearing loss and
* Signs of peripheral vestibular disease such as-
* *Head tilt, circling, leaning or falling toward the affected side, general incoordination, or spontaneous horizontal nystagmus with the fast phase away from the affected side*.
* Extension of infection from the inner ear to the brain leads to-
* *Meningitis, meningoencephalitis, or abscesses, with signs referable to those conditions.*
* In horses, severe otitis media/interna can result in fusion and fracture of the tympanohyoid joint; extension of the fracture line to the calvarium can lead to intracranial spread of infection or cause hematoma and death.
* Whereas animals with otitis media/interna are usually alert, nonfebrile, and have a good appetite, those with meningitis or meningoencephalitis are usually depressed, febrile, and inappetent.
* A **major differential diagnosis** for otitis media/interna in ruminants is **listeriosis**. However, in listeriosis, cranial nerves other than VII and VIII may be affected; causing signs such as dysphagia or loss of facial sensation, and affected animals are usually depressed.