
DON'T worry about damaging your pets' ear canal with the nozzle of the drops-the canal bends through 90 degrees and the nozzle is not long enough to damage your pet's ear drum even if he moves.

DON'T use Q-tips or cotton swabs to clean your pet's ears- these are long enough to damage the ear drum if used incautiously.

If you have any questions about cleaning your dogs ears or administering drops, please ask your vet or vet nurse-we will be happy to assist you, or demonstrate!

HAPPY CLEANING!

Client information series

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How to clean ears or give ear drops

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why clean ears-and how?

Some dogs have very waxy ears, just like some humans.

Waxy ears don't smell or look nice!

Wax build up can predispose dogs to ear infections.

Cleaning ears is an important step in managing ear infections.

A dog that is already used to having its ears handled and cleaned will be much easier to give ear drops to than a dog which has never had any handling of its ears before!

1. Get the dog used to having its ears handled. It helps if the dog is feeling calm to begin with! Give the dog treats while gently holding its ears. Repeat for a few sessions until the dog is comfortable and sits quietly while you touch its ears.
2. Introduce the cleaner. At first, just hold the ear and touch the nozzle to the ear. Then lower the nozzle into the canal without squirting in the cleaner. Repeat this until the dog is

comfortable.

3. Clean one ear. Give one good squirt of cleaner into the ear canal. Lower the nozzle all the way in. Massage gently from the bottom up to help dissolve debris- this should make a squelching noise. The dog or cat will shake his head afterwards- so do this outside or in a room with no expensive furniture or carpets. Then dry the ear with some absorbent paper or cotton wool. Give a treat at the same time or immediately afterwards.
4. When the dog is comfortable with one ear being cleaned, try cleaning both ears in a session. This may take a while and it may be better initially to clean just one ear. Reward the dog after each time.

My dog hates ear cleaning-what can I do?

There are 2 options for cleaning the ears of dogs who are very fearful of this procedure. The first is to attempt to desensitize them. The second (as a last resort) is to give them a general anaesthetic to flush out the ears.

Clean ears 2-3 times a week until free of debris-and then once every 2-4 weeks.

Cleaning too often can remove all the 'good bacteria' that inhabit the ear canal –leaving an ideal habitat for the 'bad bacteria' that cause infections to colonise the ear.

However ear cleaning is an important step in the management of ear infections so if a dog's ear is already infected cleaning can get rid of the debris and allow the medication to work.

If your dog's ears are already infected your vet may prescribe medicated drops as well as a cleaner to get rid of the debris and allow the drops to work. A dog usually needs 7-14 days of twice daily drops to control an ear infection.

Ear cleaning donts!

DON'T clean too frequently if the dog or cat has clean ears-once every 2-4 weeks is fine for most pets.