



Ear Cleaning

Regular ear cleaning is a key part to a healthy & happy dog or cat. It is important use only a veterinarian recommended ear-cleaning solution. You should wear medical exam gloves to prevent coming in contact with potential bacteria or fungi your pet may harbor. Be sure to also wash your hands immediately after each ear-cleaning session.

If you notice any of the following symptoms, please call our office immediately:

- Increased fluid or pasty discharge from ear(s)
- Increased redness, swelling, or heat from the ear
- Increased shaking or scratching of the ears
(except for the first few minutes after cleaning)

If your pet shows resentment to having this done, stop the procedure and call your veterinarian for further advice. The ear may be too painful to treat without additional medications, and it is imperative that you not hurt your pet or put yourself at risk of a nip or bite. This may also be an indication that the condition is worsening and should be checked immediately, so please contact us to discuss treatment options.

Never use Q-Tips or other cotton-tipped swabs to clean your pet's ears. Too often, this results in pushing the debris back into the ear canal, which is the opposite of the intended effect. Cotton balls or gauze work well to remove debris from the ear flap and upper ear canal.

Important Points

1. Place the bottle of ear-cleaning solution under your own armpit for 10 or 15 minutes before the ear cleaning. This brings the solution to body temperature and makes it much more comfortable .
2. With one hand, gently flip the ear flap straight up. This is best done by cupping the ear flap (pinna) in your hand, with the haired part of the ear against the palm of your hand and your thumb on the hairless inner surface of the ear flap.
3. Place the lukewarm cleansing solution into the ear canal, allowing the solution to fill the canal to the brim. In a medium-size dog, 1 tablespoon (15 mL) typically will be necessary; a half to 1 teaspoon (2.5 to 5 mL) is expected for cats. Do not allow the bottle tip to touch the ear canal, which would contaminate the bottle and its contents.
4. Then lower the ear flap and massage the ear canal for 1 minute. Allow your pet to shake his / her head to help loosen debris and propel it outward.
5. Gently wipe away excess cleaning solution and debris from inside the ear with cotton balls or gauze wrapped around your index finger.

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