



# How to Clean Your Pet's Ears

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Our pets' ear canals are "L" shaped and travel down vertically before turning 90 degrees and continuing horizontally to the ear drum. Because of this shape, it is impossible to thoroughly clean the canal by just wiping and can be dangerous to use cotton buds.

Ear cleaning should be performed as directed during treatment for an infection. When the ears are healthy, they can be cleaned 1-2 times weekly and should be cleaned after all baths to prevent water sitting in the horizontal canal.

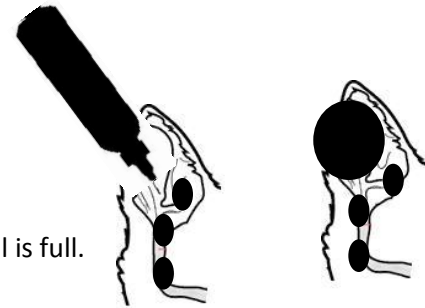
## **Step 1**

Prepare a comfortable place in your home, ideally in the bathroom or kitchen where cleanup, if needed, will be easy. Get a small rug or old towel for your pet to sit on, or try placing small dogs or cats in the bathroom sink, where they can curl up and feel safe. Make sure you have some treats on hand to reward your pet for cooperating!

## **Step 2**

Use only vet-approved ear cleaning solution; some solutions may not be appropriate for your pet's ear condition.

Fill the canal with solution by either pouring it directly into the ear or soaking a cotton ball or paper towel in solution and squeezing it into the ear. Fluid should spill out of the ear once the canal is full.



## **Step 3**

Once the canal is full, massage the canal to break up debris. You should hear a squelching sound during this step.

## **Step 4**

Place a dry cotton ball or paper towel in the outer portion of the canal where you can see it and massage again. This will absorb some of the debris you've broken down and the excess cleaning solution.

## **Step 5**

Step back! Your pet will probably shake his/her head to get out extra debris and solution. He/she may shake for a few minutes; this is normal and any extra solution will dry itself from the ear shortly.

## **Step 6**

If your pet has been prescribed an ear medication, this is the time to apply it. Place the tip of the applicator into the canal and squeeze to dispense a small amount, then massage again to coat the canal with medication.

## **Step 7**

Be sure to reward your pet with lots of love and some treats!

Occasionally after an ear cleaning pets can seem off balance. This happens when an inflamed ear drum lets some solution or medication move into the middle ear. If you suspect this has happened, please call us straight away and do not put anything else into the ear. We'll give you guidance on how to help your pet feel better as fast as possible.