

A Guide To Pet Ear Care



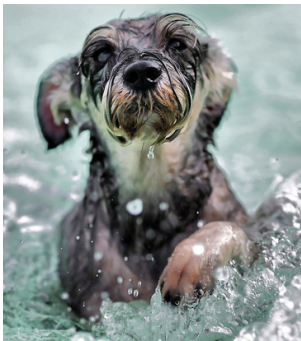
Much like brushing your pet's fur and clipping their nails, ear cleaning is an important grooming regimen.

If you have the opportunity to begin a once-a-week ear cleaning routine when your pet is young, you will save a lot of hassle in the future. If not, you will just need patience, time, and plenty of treats!



What Can Cause An Ear Infection?

- Trapped Moisture
- Allergies
- Trauma:
 - *Bites
 - *Scratches
- Parasites:
 - *Ear mites (most common in cats)
 - *Fleas



-Dogs who swim can be more prone to ear infections. Water can become trapped in their ears.
--> It is important to dry your pet's ears after swimming and bathing!

Signs To Look For

- Redness
- Swelling
- Whimpering when ears are touched
- Abnormal odor
- Brown/black discharge
- Ear scratching
- Head shaking
- Head tilting (In severe cases)

Predisposed Breeds

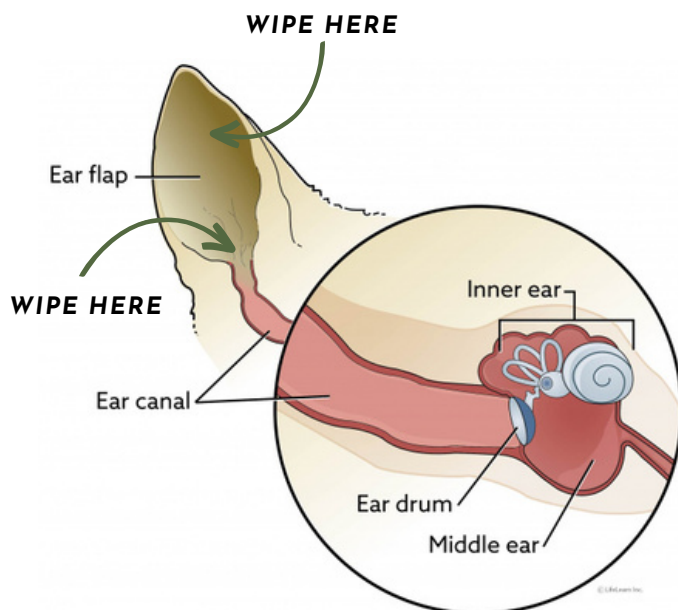
- Certain pet breeds have a higher risk of developing ear infections.
- Some dogs have long, floppy ears (**Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Beagles**).
- Other dogs tend to grow excessive amounts of hair in their ears (**Poodles, Goldendoodles, Lhasa Apsos, Shih Tzus**).
- Cat breeds such as Himalayans, Persians, and Scottish Folds have small, folded ears,
-->All of these pets can develop ear infections due to trapped moisture and debris.

How Should I Clean My Pet's Ears?

1. Inspect your pet's ears for any sign of infection and irritation. If you notice any signs, schedule a doctor's appointment with us!
2. Shake the ear cleanser bottle well before using it.
3. Apply ear cleanser generously on a cotton ball or gauze pad.
4. Gently wipe the ear flap and ear canal to remove ear wax buildup and debris.

You should only wipe into the canal as far as your fingers allow.

5. Repeat step #4 until the cotton ball or gauze is clean after wiping.
6. Allow your pet to shake their head and remove any excess cleanser or debris.
7. If your Veterinarian prescribed a medicated ointment for your pet, you can apply it to the ear canal.
8. Be careful not to clean your pet's ears too frequently as it can cause irritation. If your pet has an ear infection, it is recommended to clean the ears **once every 72 hours**.



What To Use vs What Not To Use



USE A FORMULATED CLEANSER (ONE THAT IS ALCOHOL BASED AND HAS A DRYING AGENT)

USE COTTON BALLS OR GAUZE

-These options are gentle on your pet's ears.

-Our office sells a product called epiklean!



DO NOT USE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE OR ALCOHOL

DO NOT USE Q-TIPS/COTTON SWABS

-Products like this are harsh on your pet's ears and can cause dryness, inflammation, and irritation.

-These can cause trauma to the ear drum or ear canal.

