

How to Clean Dog Ears

Before you begin, take a moment to inspect your dog's ears. If they appear red or inflamed, they smell bad, or your dog shows signs that they itch, stop what you're doing and contact your vet. Your dog may have an infection or an infestation of ear mites, either of which will need to be treated. If your dog has a lot of hair, use tweezers to clear hair out of the ear canal. Once the ears are clear and everything appears normal, read the directions on the ear cleanser. You can also follow this step-by-step process to clean your pooch's ears:

1. After getting your pup to sit, reward him with a treat and allow him to inspect the bottle of ear cleaner.
2. If his ears aren't already erect, hold the ear flap upright and carefully fill the ear canal with the cleaning solution.
3. Keeping the ear flap out of the way, gently massage the base of the ear with your fingers for about twenty seconds.
4. Release the ear and allow your dog to shake his head if he desires. Hold a towel over his head to prevent the solution from flying everywhere.
5. Use a cotton ball or a cotton pad wrapped around your index finger to gently wipe the visible part of your dog's ear canal and outer ear. Use a cotton swab only if necessary and only on the visible portion of your dog's ear, but never stick them into the canal as risk for eardrum rupture can occur. Repeat steps 2-5 until you get a clean cotton ball.
6. Reward your pup with another treat and then repeat these steps for the other ear.

Tips and Tricks to Make it Easier

- While the steps involved in how to clean dog ears may be pretty straightforward, here are a few tips that will help it go easier for both you and your pooch.
- Unless you want ear cleaner everywhere, make sure your dog is in a confined area. Place your dog in a tub or bring him outside. Make sure you're wearing old clothing that won't get ruined if the cleaning solution gets on it.
- Additionally, don't skimp on the cleaning solution. There's a lot more to your dog's ear canal than what you can see. Filling the entire canal with solution will help ensure the entire ear gets cleaned. Any excess cleaner that doesn't get wiped out will be expelled by your dog shaking his head. If the ears still appear dirty when you're done, go ahead and repeat the process, and stop immediately if you notice redness or bleeding, or if your dog shows signs of discomfort.
- Some dogs, especially those with short ears and not a lot of hair, may only need to have their ears wiped out occasionally when they begin to look dirty. Dogs with floppy ears and those with a lot of hair around the ears should have a more thorough inspection and cleaning at least every other week.
- Knowing how to clean dog ears is a fundamental part of grooming your pet. Making sure this is done on a regular basis will help protect his hearing and ensure that your pup's ears stay healthy throughout his life.
- Never use household products such as rubbing alcohol, water or hydrogen peroxide to clean your pet's ears.