

Cleaning and medicating pet ears

Ear cleaning should be part of your pet's regular bathing routine. Be gentle with your pet's sensitive ears, which may be especially tender if infected.

How to clean pet ears

Be prepared for this process to be messy:

1. Gently grasp the ear tip and pull it straight up and slightly away from their head.
 2. Slowly drip a vet-approved cleaning solution into the ear canal. If your pet resists, try slightly warming the medication, or soaking a cotton ball and lightly squeezing it into the ear.
 3. Gently massage the opening of the canal to distribute the cleaner.
 4. Allow a big head shake—this helps to remove cleaner from the ear canal.
 5. Wipe up any extra solution or debris from the ear canal entrance or earflap with a dry cotton ball or paper towel.
 6. Repeat as directed by your veterinary team.
- ▶ Always apply ear medication 5–10 minutes after cleaning, not before.



How to apply ear medication

The same basic steps apply:

1. Gently grasp the ear tip and pull it straight up and slightly away from their head.
2. **Liquid applications:** Slowly drip the prescribed amount of medication into the ear canal, allowing it to run into the canal itself.
Tube applications: Never push the applicator into the ear. Instead, very gently place the applicator near the opening of the ear canal and lightly squeeze the tube.
3. Gently massage the opening of the ear canal to distribute the medication.

If you need to treat the inner earflap, dab a little medication on directly, then spread it over the affected area with a gloved finger or cotton ball.

- ▶ Never use cotton swabs on your pet's ears. You can easily damage the eardrum and push wax down into the ear canal.



Keys to success

- Clean your pet's ears regularly
- Administer all medications as prescribed
- Don't let your pet's ears get wet—plug ear canals with cotton balls during swimming or bathing
- In the case of ear infections, monitor your pet carefully and schedule checkups as directed
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

