

## Ear Cleaning Tips

At some point during your dog's lifetime, it is likely that you will have to clean his or her ears. It is a good idea to start teaching your puppy to tolerate this from the beginning. However, it is never too late to start with an older dog! Here are some pointers to help you out.

Items you will need:

Ear cleaning solution- purchased at your vet or local pet store.

Gauze or cut paper towel

A clean towel

An assistant (helpful, but not necessary)

Dog/Cat

Have your assistant hold your pet. Lift up the ear straight with one hand and squirt the ear cleaning solution into the ear. Put enough in so that you can hear it squishing around. Massage the base of the ear for about 10-20 seconds. This will break up any dirt and wax and bring it to the surface. Use the gauze or paper towel to wipe out the ear canal. You can stick your finger as far down the canal as it will go, you will not hurt your pet's ear. Using a Q-tips is not a good idea because you CAN go far enough into the ear canal to hurt your pet. Your pet may decide to shake his or her head and fling ear cleaning solution all over you and your assistant, so wearing nice clothes is not a good idea. Use your towel to wipe any excess fluid off your pet, yourself, your assistant, and your floor. If you are medicating your pet's ears for an infection, put the medication in a little while AFTER cleaning the ears.