

Proper Ear Cleaning



Why it's important

Good ear cleaning techniques are essential for maintaining healthy ear canals, whether treating an infection or preventive cleaning. The primary goal of an ear cleaner is to remove excessive discharge or cerumen (wax) from the ear canal with the least amount of trauma to the ears.

How to clean the ear canal

1. Warm the cleaning solution to a temperature that is comfortable when tested on the back of your hand. Do this by either leaving the solution in a warm area for a few hours or bathing it in warm water.
2. Apply a generous amount of the warmed cleaning solution into the ear canal. Massage the base of the ear to disperse the cleaning solution deep into the ear canal.
3. Use cotton balls to absorb the excess solution from the pinna and external ear canal and to gently wipe away any loose debris from the surface of the ear. Do not use cotton swabs for cleaning as they can push cerumen (wax) further into the ear canal.
4. Allow your pet to shake its head to remove the solution. This is best done outside to prevent soiling carpet, walls, etc.
5. If there is a lot of debris in the ear, you may have to repeat the application until the cleaning solution is clear of debris.

The frequency of cleaning will vary according to your veterinarian's recommendations.

When to contact your veterinarian:

If you notice excessive head shaking or pain associated with your pet's ears, or the condition persists after following the prescribed treatment, contact your veterinarian.



**Animal Health
Care Center**
of Hershey