

## How to clean your dog's ears:

Unfortunately, some dogs will develop ear infections, and certain breeds will be more prone than others.

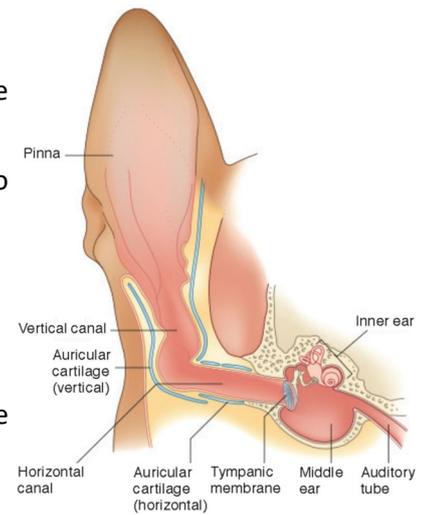
If your pet has been diagnosed with an ear infection, it is important to know how to clean the ears properly in order to:

- maximise the effect of the medications dispensed;
- minimise the chance of the infection returning;
- minimise the risk of scarring inside the ear canal.

Dogs have ears that run vertically down towards the ear drum. This makes the process of cleaning a little easier as gravity can help you.

Tips for successful ear treatment:

- Only try when your pet is calm. If they are pepped up from a walk or the like, wait until they are more relaxed before you start.
- Use treats! **Every. Single. Time.** Use something very tasty such as cooked chicken or fritz. Ear cleaning is not pleasant but food can go along way to convincing your dog otherwise.
- Take your time. Try not to apply ear meds when you are in too much of a hurry. Your dog will pick up on your agitation and will likely make the next ear treatment that much harder.
- Wear old clothes and do it outside. If your pet is likely to run away at the sight of the ear cleaner, place them on a leash before hand.
- You can warm up the ear ointments. Place them in a warm water bath for five minutes before applying.
- Usually having a second person to help makes the whole process easier, however ear treatments can still be administered alone.



**Step 1:** If you have a small dog they can be placed them up on a bench to apply ear meds—just watch they don't leap off and hurt themselves. Start every session with a treat!

**Step 2:** If your pet doesn't have standing ears, Gently grasp the ear pinna (ear flap) and lift up to expose the ear canal.

**Step 3:** Place the ear wash at the entrance of the ear canal. Make sure you flip the bottle 180 degrees vertically so the nozzle is facing downwards. You do not need to place the nozzle into the ear canal as this can be painful. Allow gravity to do the work for you. Fill the ear canal up to the top.

**Step 4:** Massage the base of the ear gently for about 30 seconds—you should hear a squelching sound. Most pets enjoy this stage so take your time. If your pet cries out, soften your massage until they are comfortable. Particularly nasty ear infections can be very painful, especially in the initial stages of treatment.

**Step 5:** After the massage, let your pet have a good head shake.

**Step 6:** Treat again!

**Step 7:** If you have been dispensed an antibiotic lotion as well follow up 20 minutes later; apply using the same steps as above.

**Step 8:** Treat!

**Step 9:** Using a cotton ball or swab you can wipe out any excess ointment around the folds of the ear. Do not try and put a cotton bud down into your pets ear canal.

**Step 10:** Follow up with the same process for the other ear if necessary.

**We have now got instructional videos on our website with 'how to' guides for treatment. Check them out at [www.oldreynellavet.com.au](http://www.oldreynellavet.com.au)**

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