

Cleaning Your Dog's Ears:

A Complete Guide for Pet Parents

Keeping your pup's ears clean is key to overall good health and grooming.

However, cleaning your furry friend's ears can be difficult—whether it's keeping them still or understanding how to properly perform a cleaning.

So, how should you clean your pup's ears? We've created a step-by-step guide to help.

What You'll Need

- Dog treats
- A pet-approved ear cleaner made specifically for dogs
- Cotton balls or soft tissues
- A soft, clean towel
- Extra support—it's helpful to have another person to hold your pup during this process.

Don't use a q-tips/cotton swabs—these products can cause damage to your dog's ear canal.

If your dog is showing symptoms of a potential ear infection—such as red, smelly, or sore ears—don't attempt to clean them. Instead, call your Chewy Vet Care clinician.

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How To Clean Your Dog's Ears



1 Ask your dog to sit, and offer them a training treat. Speak to them calmly and keep the environment quiet. A stress-free dog makes for a better experience for all!



2 Get your pup into a sitting position. Your partner can gently hold your dog from behind with their hands on your pup's shoulders.



3 With clean hands, carefully lift your dog's ear flap.



4 Aim your cleaner over their ear canal. Don't allow the bottle to touch your dog's skin.



5 Squeeze the ear cleaner into the ear until the ear canal is full of cleaner.



6 Gently massage the base of your pup's ear for about 30 seconds. If you hear a squishing sound, that's a good sign you're doing it correctly—this is the cleaner moving around the canal as needed.



7 Use a cotton ball or cotton wipe to clean away any extra debris (like fluid or buildup) from the outer ear and base of your dog's ear.



8 Allow your pup to shake their head. Make sure to give them lots of praise and some treats for sitting through their ear clean.

Repeat these steps on their other ear.