

Cleaning Your Cat's Ears:

A Complete Guide for Pet Parents

While cats typically do their own grooming, you may have to help them clean their ears every so often.

While cleaning cat and dog ears are a similar process, cat ears are more sensitive than a dog's. Because of this, you should clean your cat's ears less frequently.

Ear cleaning is an important part of promoting your cat's health and happiness. However, it may prove difficult if your cat is nervous, scared, or just doesn't like their ears being touched.

So, how can you safely and effectively clean your furry companion's ears? Don't worry—we've created a step-by-step guide to help!

What You'll Need

- Cat treats
- A vet-approved ear cleaner made specifically for cats
- Cotton balls or soft tissues
- A soft, clean towel
- Extra support—you'll want a partner with you to help hold your cat while you clean.

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

If your cat 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.



How To Clean Your Cat's Ears



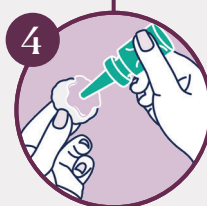
1 Give your cat a cuddle or a loving pat to **make them comfortable**.



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



3 With clean hands, **carefully take the tip of your cat's ear and gently pull it back into position.**



4 **Squeeze a small amount of ear cleaner onto a cotton ball or wipe.**



5 With the cotton ball or wipe wrapped around your finger, very gently **clean out your cat's ear for about 30 seconds.**



6 **Your cat will want to shake their head—let them.**



7 **Take a new, dry cotton ball and wipe away any excess debris,** such as liquid or buildup from inside their ears.



8 **Offer your cat a lot of love, praise, and some treats** for successfully sitting through their ear clean.

Now, repeat these steps on your cat's other ear.