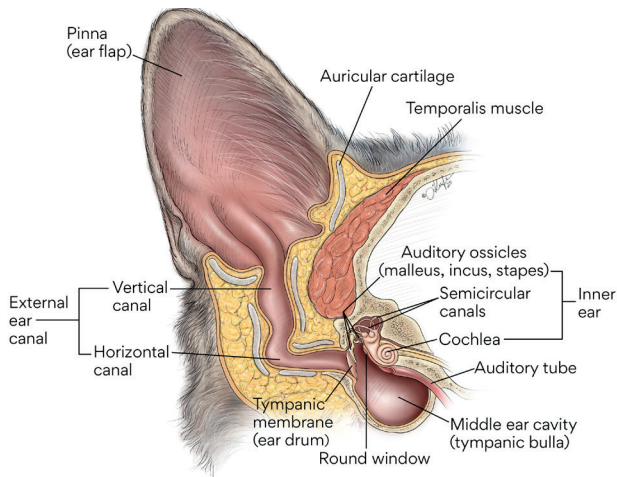


# Cleaning Your Cat's Ears

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

Though 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.

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!



The anatomy of a cat's ear illustrating the diverse system of glands, tubes, muscles, tissues, and cartilage.

## 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 a 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.

**petMD**  
by **chewy**



To learn more, scan the QR code

## How To Clean Your Cat's Ears



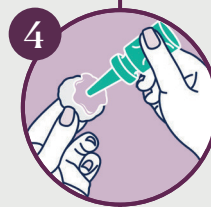
Give your cat a cuddle or a loving pat to **make them comfortable**.



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



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



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



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



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



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



**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.**