

How to Clean Your Dog's Ears?

(Difficulty Level: Easy to Medium)



Whether dogs like it or not, they need to have their ears cleaned. And, as you may already know, cleaning your dog's ears is *a very important task*. In order to keep your canine friend happy and healthy, you need to ensure their ears are cleaned on a regular basis. Ears get a buildup of both wax and dirt, which is why bacteria can thrive. And, when bacteria can thrive, it can cause the dog to suffer with a horrible ear infection.

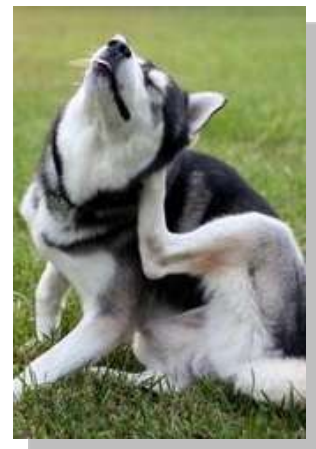
As a dog owner, it's imperative you check your canine friend for any signs of dirt, debris, parasites such as [ear mites](#) and infections once a week. Be sure to look in both ears – what you want are ears that are clear of an extreme wax buildup or discharge and looks fleshy-pink. However,

if you observe any of the following signs, it means your canine friend is suffering with an infection:

- Powerful, foul odor
- Swelling/inflammation around and in the ear canal
- Intense sensitivity of the ears to the touch
- Any kind of nasty-looking discharge

If you notice your dog is violently shaking his/her head or rubbing his/her ears on the ground or scratching at them and you observe any of the symptoms above, don't try cleaning your dog's ears yourself, as they may be too painful to clean.

Rather, take them to the vet to get the right treatment. A vet will assess if the dog needs to be anesthetized in order to clean and treat the dog. Your vet will then prescribe the appropriate medication to treat your dog's ear infection. Ask the vet to show you how to clean and apply the medication at home for your dog. Ear infections left untreated can cause hearing loss and other permanent damage.



Of course, to combat the problem before it even begins, you need to learn how to clean dog ears properly and to make sure it's one part of the grooming process.

Tools Necessary to Clean your Dog's Ears

To get ready to clean your dog's ears, you need to have the right tools in hand, readily available so that your attention is focused solely on him/her. Be sure you have:

- Gauze or sterile cotton balls
- [Dog otic solution](#)



Step-By-Step Guide for Cleaning your Dog's Ears

Now, let us reiterate that the ear cleaning procedure that follows is for a dog with a healthy ear. If you observe symptoms of ear infection we mentioned above, it is best to take your dog to a vet for treatment.

Ear cleaning is not that complicated: just remember to do it slowly and do not use a Q-tip to get into the horizontal ear canal. If you've got a squirmy dog, it's best to have someone helping you. Be sure the room that you are in is quiet (minimize distractions) and bright (so you can see clearly). And, always wear a pair of clean gloves or wash your hands before the procedure to avoid further problems.

Steps to cleaning your dog's ears:

1. Have your assistant help you hold the dog's head and mouth so you can clean your dog's ears easily. Holding your dog's ear with one hand, gently lift up the ear flap so you expose the open ear.
2. Squeeze adequate otic solution into the ear (follow the instruction on the bottle). Softly massage the outer ear canal so the solution will start to work. Then use the cotton ball or gauze to clean the ear.
3. Repeat Step 2 as many times as you need until there's no more wax and debris, each time using a clean piece of cotton ball or gauze. Work similarly for the other ear.
4. Once you are done, allow the dog to shake his/her head to get rid of the extra solution.
5. Use the gauze pad or cotton ball to clean the ear flaps and canals to remove the extra solution from the ear.
6. After you're done cleaning your dog's ears, give him/her a treat. This helps to ensure the next dog ear cleaning goes smoothly. Remember to be gentle with their ears when you're cleaning them.

Tip: To clean dog ears out, you need to speak with them in a calm, cool manner. If you scare your pup with the first cleaning, he/she may become resistant to further cleanings. Use a reassuring voice and praise the dog when they show cooperative behavior.

How Frequently Should You Clean Dog Ears

Now, you might be wondering how often you should carry out this task. Really, that depends on your dog's activity and the weather (warm and humid weather encourage bacteria growth). Determine how often you need to clean your dog's ears by inspecting its ears every day at first. Certain breeds tend to have more wax buildup compared to others. Clean your dog's ears when you see any debris/wax inside the ear. After some time, you'll get a hang of how frequent your dog's ears need cleaning. Perform the ear cleaning procedure as often as you need. In addition, it is also good practice that you check your dog's ears one time a week if you don't have a weekly cleaning routine to make sure they are healthy.

And whenever you notice any of the ear problems or symptoms mentioned above, be sure to get help from the vet. To learn more dog grooming techniques, [click here to see our ebooks](#).



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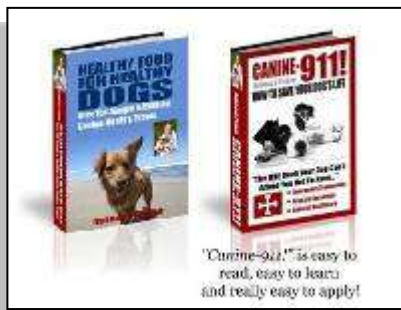
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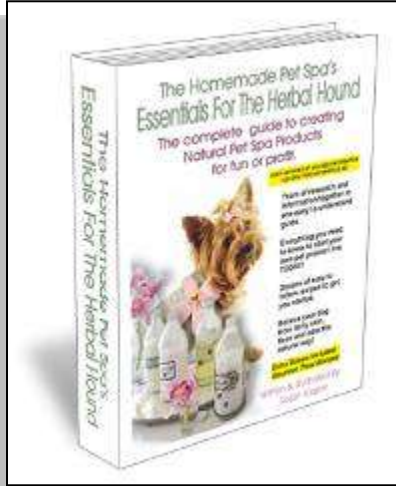
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[Canine-911 \(First Aid eBook\)](#)

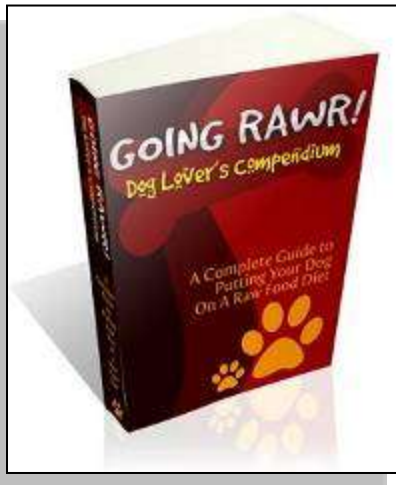
92% of dogs will experience a life-threatening emergency during their lifetime. Most dogs die from illness and injury than from old-age. Learning about first aid before it happens could mean the difference between their life and death when it happens. As much as dog owners don't like to think about this, you'll never know when your first aid knowledge may one day save your dog's life.



Essentials for the Herbal Hound

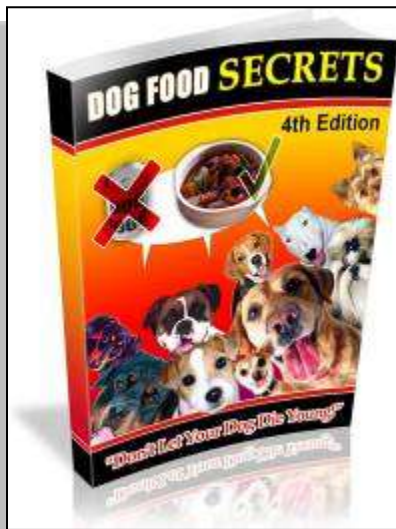
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- *Every recipe has feeding recommendations for Toy, Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large dogs
- *Calorie count included for every recipe

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