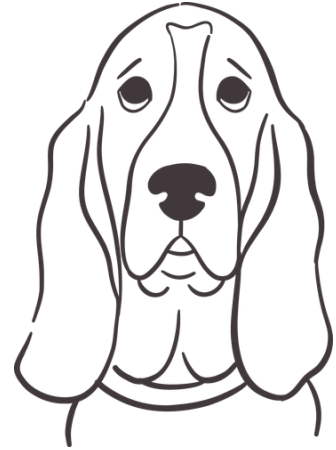


ear cleaning for dogs

Why do I need to clean my dog's ears?

- Dirt can build up in your dog's ears, which can increase the risk of ear infection.
- Some dogs will need frequent ear cleaning, especially breeds with long ears (e.g., Basset Hounds and Cocker Spaniels). Dogs who swim a lot may need more frequent ear cleaning.
- Get your puppies used to having their ears gently touched while giving them treats. This will make it easier to clean their ears when they are adults.



Check your dog's ears regularly

- The inside of the ear should be pink and clean, and not have an odor.
- If the ears look dirty or smell, your dog likely needs an ear cleaning.
- If the ears look healthy and clean, you do not to clean them.
- Overcleaning can be irritating so unless your veterinarian advises otherwise, only clean the ears when they appear dirty.

Beyond cleaning: What should I look out for?

Ear mites, ear infection, allergies, fleas

Is your dog shaking their head?

Does the ear look red and irritated?

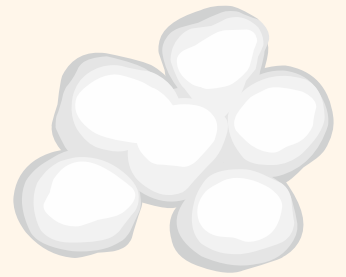
Does your dog appear to have pain or discomfort in their ear if you touch it?

If so, call your veterinarian.



Supplies for ear cleaning

- Cotton balls or gauze
- Ear cleaning solution as recommended by your veterinarian
- A towel to keep yourself dry



Only use **cleaning solutions that are made for dogs**. Avoid using hydrogen peroxide or other homemade products.

Tips for ear cleaning



Select a quiet, calm place with a non-slippery surface.

If possible, have one person provide treats while the other does the cleaning. Placing treats on a lick mat can be helpful.

Start by cleaning the outer part of the ear flap by placing the solution on the cotton ball. Gently wipe the inside part of the ear flap.

Following the instructions on the solution packaging, squeeze the solution into the ear canal. There should be some liquid visible in the ear canal. Massage the base of the ear gently.

Your dog will likely shake their head. Gently wipe away any excess solution from the ear. Do not insert the cotton ball or gauze INTO the ear canal.



If your dog freezes, tries to escape, tries to bite, or otherwise seems stressed out, stop and ask your attending veterinarian for help on how to best proceed.

If your dog's ears appear infected, **DO NOT CLEAN THEM**. Call your veterinarian. Regular cleaning solution will not treat the infection and may increase inflammation.

How often do you need to clean your dog's ears?

Check your dogs weekly for signs of wax, dirt or irritation. Some dogs may need weekly cleaning, but most dogs will need cleaning monthly or less. Your veterinarian can help you determine how often your dog's ears need to be cleaned.

