



## Ear Cleaning Technique

Ears should be cleaned regularly (every 2-7 days as needed to keep the ears clean) when they are inflamed.

### Cleaning the ear

1. Obtain a good quality ear cleansing solution from your veterinarian. Human ear cleaning solutions are not formulated properly for use in the ears of the dog or cat.
2. Supplies needed include the ear cleaning solution and cotton balls.
3. Fill the entire ear canal with the solution. Allow the solution to overflow from the canal.
4. Place a cotton ball in the opening of the external ear canal.
5. Gently massage the ear canal using an upward motion to help pull the solution up into the cotton ball.
6. Remove the cotton ball and repeat the process until the solution absorbed by the cotton ball is clean.
7. Repeat the massage with the cotton ball in the opening of the canal...without adding any additional ear cleaning solution...until the majority of the solution has been removed from the ear.
8. **Applying medicine into the ear canal**
  - For drops: pull the pinna (ear flap) up over the head and drop the medication into the lowest opening of the ear canal. Generally 7-9 drops are required to deliver medication into the deeper areas of the ear canal with a liquid medicine.
  - For ointments: pull the pinna (ear flap) up over the head and gently squeeze the desired amount of medication into the lowest opening of the ear canal. Gently massage the ear after application of the medicine.