

You can do it!

Cleaning your dog’s ears can be intimidating, but with a little know-how and advice from your vet, you’ll be feeling confident about keeping those ears clean and healthy.

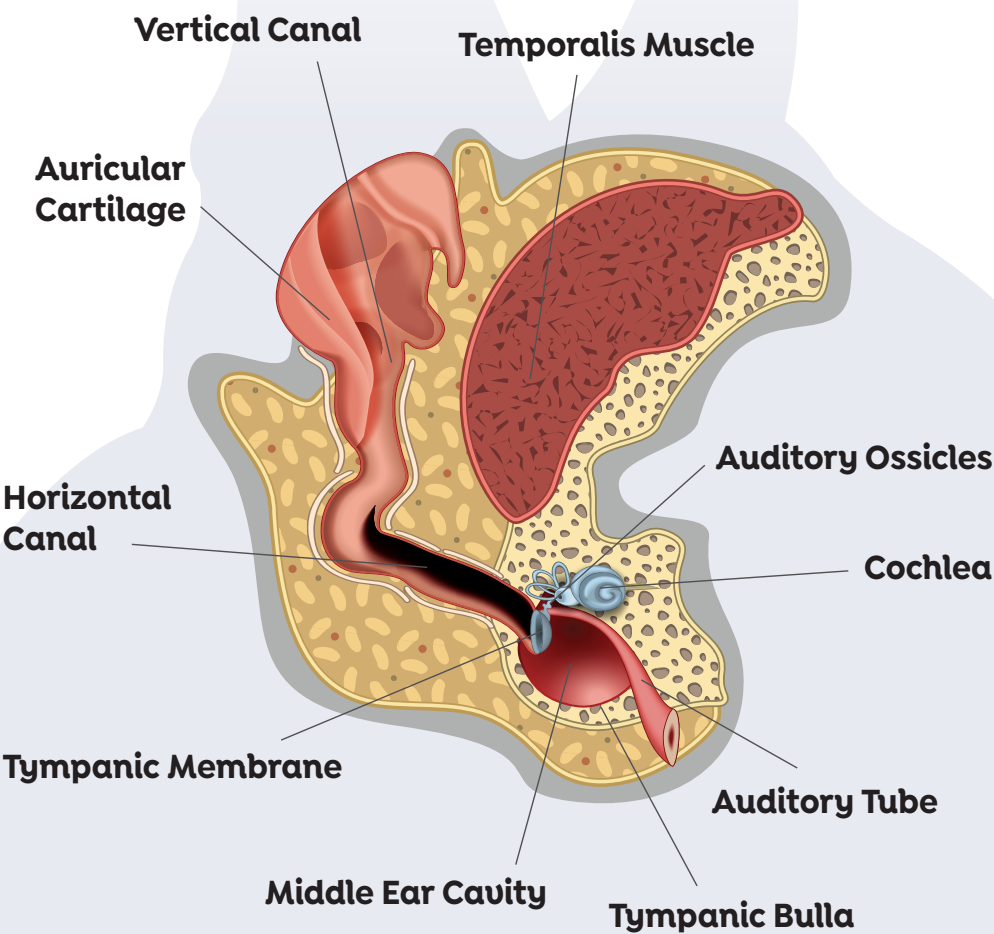


Before you start:

Check with your vet! If your dog shows any of these “ear”ly warning signs:

- Signs of irritation or pain
- Swelling, redness, or heat
- Bad odor coming from the ear

Call your vet immediately and **do not clean the ear!** Pouring solution into an infected or injured ear can cause more damage.



How often should you do this?

It depends! Some dogs won't need frequent cleaning, and others may have higher-maintenance needs, including:

- Floppy- or hairy-eared breeds
- Frequent swimmers
- Dogs with allergies

Ask your veterinarian to recommend a schedule for keeping your dog’s ears clean and healthy.

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/instructions-for-ear-cleaning-in-dogs>
<http://www.aaha.org/blog/NewStat/post/2018/04/01/255866/Ear-Cleaning-Tips-from-an-Expert.aspx>

Basics of cleaning:

Dogs have a horizontal inner ear canal where wax and debris build up over time. Periodic cleaning with a good quality, vet recommended ear cleanser can prevent infection and irritation.

You'll need:

Ear cleanser
and cotton balls
(or soft cloth)



- 1 Position your dog comfortably, sitting or standing with his head held normally. You may want to enlist a partner or work outdoors for easier cleaning and clean-up.
- 2 Gently lift and hold your dog’s ear flap to open up the inner ear and straighten out the ear canal.
- 3 Slowly squeeze in enough solution to fill the ear, being careful not touch the ear with the bottle.
- 4 With the ear flap still held up, massage the base of the ear with your other hand for about 30 seconds to work the solution into the ear canal. A squishing sound as the fluid moves around the ear is normal!
- 5 Still holding the ear flap up, use cotton ball to wipe away liquid and debris from the ear, only as far as your finger can easily reach. NEVER insert a Q-tip or any other object into your dog’s ear!
- 6 Allow your dog to shake loose any leftover solution or debris left in the ear. Wipe with cotton once more for a final clean-up.
- 7 Repeat the process with the remaining ear.
- 8 Don’t forget to provide treats to your dog during and after cleaning to encourage good behavior!