

Healthy Ears

Ear care in cats and dogs



Ear Health

Your pet's ears are very different from yours — inside and out! Many factors can lead to problems: allergies, infections, or innate problems with the structure or function of your pet's ears are the most common causes. When your pet has an ear issue, it's important to get him examined so the underlying cause can be addressed. Unfortunately, some pets have ear problems that can't be cured (like allergies). It can be challenging to manage ears with chronic problems. In that case, it's important to have a management plan to keep the ears comfortable and minimize flare-ups.

Signs of a Problem

How will you know if your pet is having ear issues? Symptoms can be subtle, so you may have to pay close attention to notice them. Cats can be especially stoic!

Bad odor

Change in behavior, irritable or sensitive to touch

Shaking or tilting head, rubbing ears or face

Discharge from ears

Redness or swelling of ear flap or canal

Ear Care at Home

Your vet will offer guidance on how often you need to clean your pet's ears, and which cleaner to use, based on their unique condition. There are a wide variety of cleansers available and your vet can offer advice on which one is the right choice for your pet. You can actually clean ears too often, so always follow the directions your vet gives you. All cleansers should be approved by your vet before using them in an inflamed or painful ear; your pet may need medication.

Cleaning should not be painful. If your pet seems to be in pain, stop and call your vet.