



Ear-Cleaning, Step by Step

How to clean the ears properly, and what to avoid

PETSLIKEMINE
ALLERGIES & SKIN

PET NAME	EAR CLEANER	HOW OFTEN (PER VET)	STARTED
_____	_____	_____	_____

Recurrent ears nearly always sit on top of an allergy underneath, so cleaning is half the job and treating the allergy is the other half. Done well, regular cleaning keeps problem ears far easier to stay on top of.

CHECK WITH YOUR VET FIRST

A sore, smelly, suddenly painful ear, a head tilt, or a pet who cries when you touch it needs seeing before you clean. Never force a painful ear, and do not clean if the eardrum might be damaged unless your vet has confirmed the cleaner is safe to use. When in doubt, ask first.

THE METHOD, STEP BY STEP

- 1 Fill the canal** with the cleaner your vet gave you. Squeeze a generous amount in, without dipping the nozzle down inside the ear.
- 2 Massage the base of the ear** for about twenty seconds. You will hear a squelch, that is the cleaner loosening the gunk.
- 3 Let them shake** their head. This brings the loosened debris up and out, which is exactly what you want.
- 4 Wipe away the gunk** with cotton wool or a pad, only as far in as you can comfortably see. Never push anything down the canal.
- 5 Reward** with a (trial-safe) treat and praise, so the next clean is easier.

HOW OFTEN

As your vet advises for your pet: **[write in]**. Often a couple of times a week while a problem settles, then less to keep it at bay. Finish any medicated course even when the ear looks better.

DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD

- Cotton buds pushed down the canal
- Over-cleaning a healthy, comfortable ear
- Water, vinegar or home remedies
- Cleaning a painful ear without asking
- Stopping the moment it looks better

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Use only the cleaner your vet prescribed, at the frequency they set. Get the technique right and recurrent ears become a manageable routine, not a crisis.

TREAT THE ALLERGY UNDERNEATH TOO