



How to Properly Flush Your Pet's Ears

Some dogs and cats are prone to ear infections either due to genetics, their ear anatomy, their lifestyle (frequent swimmer), their environment, or underlying conditions such as food or environmental allergies, hypothyroidism, or other metabolic conditions. To lower the incidence of ear infections, you can flush your pet's ears regularly with a pet-approved over-the-counter solution. Keeping the inside your pet's ears dry and slightly acidic can help create an environment unfavorable to bacteria and yeast survival and growth. Most of the over-the-counter pet ear flushes available have drying agents in them.

If you notice that your pet's ears appear red or swollen, emit a foul odor, have brown, black, or green/yellow discharge from the canals, or if your pet is scratching his/her ears or shaking his/her head, then your pet's ears are most likely infected. **If you attempt to flush out your pet's ears while they are SEVERELY infected, this will make future ear flushes very difficult to perform.** If you are unsure if your pet's ears may be infected, please give us a call to schedule an appointment. We can do an ear cytology to confirm or rule out a potential ear infection if we are unsure of your pet's condition based on the physical exam alone. If we find that your pet has an ear infection and it is not too severe or painful, we will most likely prescribe a flush and ointment combination to help combat the infection. The flush we prescribe will contain additional agents in it such as antimicrobials and antifungals to help battle the infection.

If you would like to take measures to prevent future ear infections, we recommend using one of the commercial, pet-approved ear flushes listed below, which can be purchased through our in-house or online pharmacies:

Commercial Ear Flush Options Recommended for Uninfected Ears:

- Ear Flush Available In-House
 - Aurocin Ear Cleanser with Aloe Vera and Cucumber Melon Scent (dries and acidifies)
- Ear Flush Available Via Our Online Pharmacy
 - Malacetic Otic Cleanser (pH balancing ear cleanser and dryer)
 - Epi-Otic Advanced Ear Cleanser (prevents microbial attachment - for chronic ear infections)
 - Douxo Micellar Solution (Cleans, Soothes, and Degreases)
 - pH-Notics Enhanced Ear Cleaner (routine ear wax remover)



To flush your pet's ears, please follow the steps below:

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1. Fill the entire ear canal with the solution until it starts running out of the ear.
2. Massage the ear at the base for about 30 seconds.
3. Allow your pet to shake out the excess solution from his/her ear.
4. Use a cotton ball or soft Kleenex to wipe out the inner ear canal until the canal is free from dirt, ear wax, and random debris.
5. Repeat these steps on the opposite ear.
6. Give your pet a treat and make it a positive experience!

If your pet is predisposed to ear infections, we will most likely recommend flushing your pet's ears once weekly to help them stay clean and dry. Some pets may need their ears flushed more often (possibly twice weekly or once daily) depending on how predisposed they are to ear infections. Some pets object to ear flushing at first, but they often get used to the process if it is done properly and on a regular basis. Please note that **flushing your pet's ears too frequently can cause them to become overly dry and irritated**, so it's best to discuss an ear flushing regimen tailored to your pet's situation with your veterinarian. If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's ears, don't hesitate to give us a call!

*Please see this helpful video for a demonstration on how to properly flush your pet's ears:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODHNB4vA-IU>

*Please follow the link to our online pharmacy for ordering your pet's ear flush:
<https://elyvetcarepllc.securevetsource.com/index.pml>