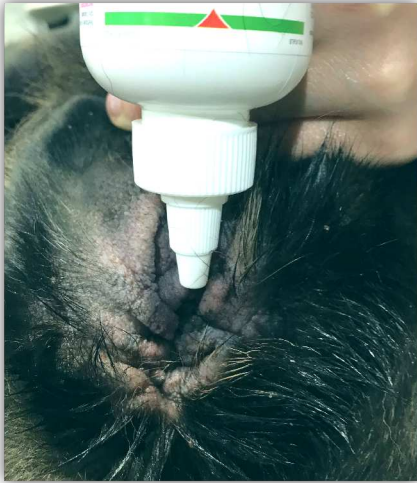


# HOW TO: clean your dog's ears

By Dakota Leschied



## Step 2

**APPLY A CLEANER:** there are many different cleaners available from pet stores, veterinary clinics, or online shops like Amazon. Once you have selected a cleaner, pour it into the ear canal until the ear canal is full of cleaning solution. You may need a helper to hold your dog as many dogs try to shake during this step.



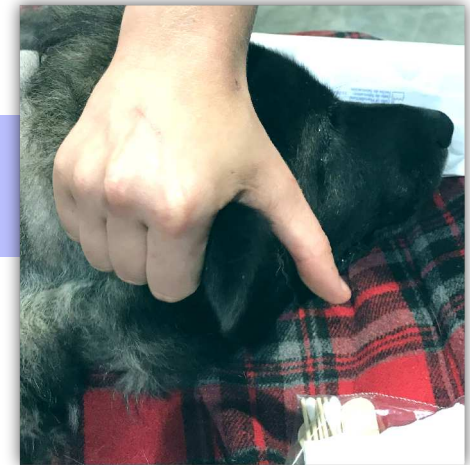
## Step 4

**CLEAN OUTER EAR:** use a soft tissue or gauze saturated in ear cleaner to gently wipe the portion of the inner ear that is visible. Use an upward motion to wipe debris out of the ear. NEVER use a q-tip to reach into the ear canal as this can damage your dog's ear drum. Repeat steps 2-4 until there is no more dirt and debris removed from your dog's ears. Repeat steps 2-4 on both ears.



## Step 1

**EXAMINE THE EARS:** the first step to ear cleaning is to determine if your dog needs its ears cleaned. A healthy dog ear is self-cleaning and should be cleaned no more than once every 10-14 days if needed. Dogs with chronic ear infections or allergies (like the dog in this picture) should be cleaned as per veterinary directions. Signs of a dirty ear include brown dirt and debris, or excessive waxy discharge in the ear.



## Step 3

**CLEAN EAR CANAL:** gently grip your dog's ear at the base of the ear canal as seen in this photo. Gently massage the base of the ear canal. You should hear a squishy sound coming from within the ear canal.

## Step 5

**APPLY MEDICATION:** if your dog has had an ear infection, your veterinarian may direct you to place medication in the ear. This should be done after cleaning the ear or as directed by your veterinarian. Ear medication is usually dropped into the ear canal, and then gently massaged and rubbed into the ear, as described in step 3.

