

SOUTH EAST COUNTRY VETS

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HOW TO CLEAN & ADMINISTER EAR MEDICATION

Many outer ear infections in dogs require medications to put directly into the ear. This procedure is usually quite straight forward but does depend on how cooperative your pet is. Below is a step-by-step explanation of how to safely and effectively clean your dog's ears. If for some reason your pet becomes agitated during the process and you feel you are at risk of being bitten, stop. If the procedure seems excessively painful to your pet, stop and seek veterinary advice.

FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS

The ear is a delicate structure so following veterinary advice is very important. Treating too frequently or aggressively can make the problem worse just as not treating often enough won't control the problem. Never use home remedies or medications that have not been prescribed by a veterinary professional.

WHAT YOU NEED

- old clothes (dogs often shake their head during and after treatment)
- a safe, easy to clean work area (tiled floor with easy to clean walls or outside)
- prescribed ear medications
- cotton balls, tissues or swabs

TECHNIQUE

- Take your dog to the area that is easy to clean and gently restrain them with assistance
- Hold the medication bottle just over and into the opening of the affected ear and gently squeeze the prescribed amount of medication into the ear. Do this slowly as a powerful stream of liquid can irritate tender and inflamed ears.
- Fold the earflap down against your dog's head and try to prevent them from shaking their head too much. Gently massage the base of the ear to distribute the solution as far as possible into the ear canal.
- Use tissues, cotton balls or swabs to gently wipe away any discharged loose debris remaining. DO NOT use cotton tips as any sudden movement can result in a cotton tip puncturing the ear drum.
- Allow your dog to shake their head to remove remnants of the solution (this is the messy part!)



RESTRAINING YOUR DOG

Some dogs willingly sit or lie quietly while you clean their ears and others will object. A helping hand is often necessary to restrain your dog whilst you medicate their ears. Backing a large dog into a corner or wrapping a small dog in a towel with their head free can be helpful. If your dog struggles, talk to him or her calmly. Massage the base of the ear (unless they are painful) should feel good to your dog and may help calm them enough so that you can resume treatment. Remember to always reward good behavior with lots of treats and praise.

This information sheet is not intended as a substitute for a veterinary consultation.

It is recommended that a consultation be arranged with a veterinary practitioner if you have any concerns with your pets' health.