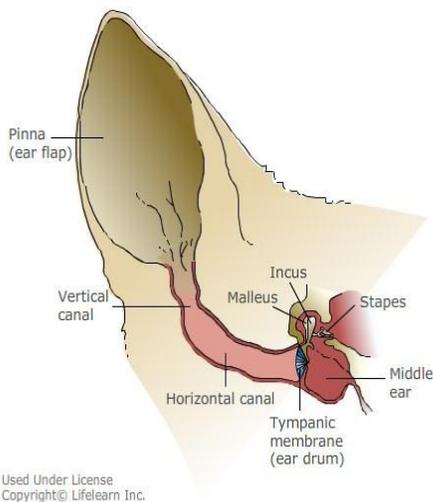


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Home Care for Your Pet's Ears

Some ears are floppy [pendulous], drooping on either side of a dog's head. Other ears point straight up toward the sky. Most cats have this type of ears. All ears need help to stay clean and healthy. Some dog breeds, such as the Poodle, Airedale, and Shih Tzu are more susceptible to ear problems because of their hairy inner ear canal and require this hair to be pulled routinely. There are products available to aid in reducing the discomfort that might occur in removing this hair. Dogs and cats with allergies are also at higher risk.

Moisture, heat and dirt are all factors that can cause irritated ear canals which can lead to infections and earaches. The best way to avoid potential problems is to clean your pet's ear canals on a regular basis.

Some pets will enjoy having their ears attended to. Others may not be so happy. If your pet is one of the later. We can provide you with some take-home information on how to de-sensitize your pet through soft handling.



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- Clean a healthy ear with an ear cleaning solution such as Epi-Otic.
- Apply liberally into the ear canal.
- Gently massage the base of the ear.
- Your pet will more than likely shake his or her head, which will aid in saturating more area and helping loosen debris.
 - Ridges and crevasse inside the ear can be cleaned with cue-tips.
 - For deeper cleansing, cotton balls will do the trick. It is safe to clean as deep as you can extend your finger into the canal.
 - After your pet has allowed you to clean his or her ears, some extra lovin' or possibly a small treat will leave your pet with a positive attitude for next time.

Signs of Ear Disease:

- Unpleasant odor
- Excessive scratching and pawing of the ear and head
- Sensitivity to touch, often resulting in pain
- Constant tilting/shaking of the head to one side
- Black or yellowish discharge
- Redness or swelling of the ear flap or canal
- Changes in behavior like listlessness, depression or irritability
- Accumulation of dark brown wax
- Loss of balance or hearing and disorientation
- Bleeding or discharge resembling coffee grounds