



**Animal Alternatives Holistic Health Clinic**  
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### **EAR CLEANING TIPS**

Before you begin, gather your supplies. Keep in mind that this can get messy, it is advisable not to clean your pet's ears next to your best furniture or while wearing your nicest outfit.

You will need:     Olive or Almond Oil\*  
                          Ear Cleaner\*  
                          Cotton Balls or a Wash cloth  
                          Cotton Swabs – use to clean the small crevices of the ear **flap only**.  
                          Ear Medication – if prescribed by your veterinarian

#### **To remove wax and debris:**

- Step 1**     To soften and remove the wax, first fill the ear canal(s) with Olive or Almond oil, massage the ear base(s), then allow your pet to shake its head.
- Step 2**     Fill the ear canal(s) with ear cleaner. Massage ear base(s) gently, this will further loosen debris and wax. Let your pet shake its head.
- Step 3**     Repeat step two twice more.
- Step 4**     Use the cotton balls or a wash cloth to wipe away debris from the opening of the ear.
- Step 5**     Use the cotton swabs to clean debris from the small crevices of the ear flap. **DO NOT** insert the cotton swab into the ear canal(s).

If your pet resists having the ear cleaner poured directly into the ear canal you can also soak a cotton ball in ear cleaner, place it in the opening of the ear canal, squeeze the liquid into the ear canal(s) then massage the base of the ear. (Make sure that the cotton ball is large enough not to become stuck in your pet's ear.)

- If your veterinarian has prescribed ear medication for your pet wait fifteen minutes after cleaning and then apply as directed.

#### **For routine cleansing (no debris evident):**

- Fill ear canal(s) with ear cleaner.
- Gently massage ear base(s) then allow your pet to shake its head.
- Clean outer ear area with cotton balls or a wash cloth.

We recommend that this be done one to two times weekly and after bathing or swimming.

\* Some pets respond better if the oil or cleaner is gently heated by placing the bottle in warm water for five minutes before use.