



## **EAR CLEANING AND MEDICATION**

The ear canal is made up of two portions – a vertical and a horizontal component. Wax and other substances are continually produced along the surface. Any dog or cat can develop ear problems, but they are more common in dogs/cats with narrow or hairy ear canals, and those dogs that regularly go swimming. Your vet may advise that cleaning your pet's ears on a regular basis may help to reduce the frequency of ear problems. Your vet will be able to advise on the frequency required, based on their current and previous medical history.

### **How to clean or medicate your pet's ears**

1. Lift up the ear flap
2. Insert the cleaner/medication nozzle into the upper part of the ear canal
3. Squeeze the required amount out of the bottle.
4. Massage the ear canal at the base of the ear canal so that a squelching can be heard. If you cannot hear this apply some more.
5. Gently wipe away excess solution and loosened wax and debris from the outside of the canal

**Do not poke anything down the ear canal, particularly cotton buds, as this can cause damage or even an obstruction.**

If your pet has an ear infection, your vet may prescribe a topical medication. These are applied in the same way as a cleaner. Many of these medicated drops contain a combination of drugs including antibiotics to kill bacterial infections and steroids to relieve inflammation. For this reason, when applying medicated drops it is advisable to wear gloves, particularly for women who are pregnant, to prevent any absorption through your own skin.

Ear infections are common in pets and often can recur, particularly if the infection has not been completely eradicated. For this reason, you may be advised to return for a recheck to make sure there is no obvious sign of ongoing infection. Even if your pet has stopped showing the signs of scratching or irritating his ears at home there can still be residual problems that need to be treated for longer to reduce the chance and frequency of recurrence.