

## Ear cleaning

Ear cleanings are recommended with an ear cleaner after bathing or swimming or as needed to keep the ears clean. Different breeds will require different frequencies of ear cleanings. For instance, labs and goldens often require ear cleanings every two weeks while other breeds that are less prone to ear infections and have less water exposure may not even need ear cleanings. The proper way to clean an ear is to grab the ear tip firmly so that when the dog shakes it will not release. The liquid ear cleaner is then used to fill the ear canal. The ear is then released so that the dog can shake thus propelling the material deep in the canal up the canal. This can be a little messy so you might consider doing it outside. Finally, use a cotton ball to clean the ear. Q-tips can be used for smaller dogs. The ear drum is very deep so you will not damage it with a q-tip, but you could irritate the canal if you go too deep. It is typical though for you to no longer be able to see the white part of the q-tip as you are cleaning.

If during any of the steps, your dog displays an aggressive response such as growling, stop whatever you are doing and simply do not provide a reward. Wait a few seconds until your dog is relaxed and return to a previously acceptable step so you can give a treat.