

LANCASTER SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

GUIDE TO PROPER EAR CLEANING

When cleaning your pets ears, be mindful that the objective is to remove as much of the debris that is present that may cause pain and disease. Many of us are quite careful to keep the ears dry when shampooing our pets and many of us who do clean ears regularly use “Q” tips and/or cotton balls to remove the excrement in the ears. Please keep in mind, that the excrement is usually a product of normal and abnormal wax buildup as well as yeast, bacteria and parasite waste products. The treatment of ear diseases is often inhibited by the inability of our medications to reach the tissue of the ear because of the excrement buildup. The goal of cleaning the ear is to remove all that material that prevents a free flow of air and reduction of humidity in the ear canal. Proper ear cleaning should encompass the following:

1. Put a small amount of our **OTIFOAM “EAR CLEANSER”** in each ear and massage well. This product will actually cut the grease and wax in the ear and enable you to remove it. This should stay in the ear for at least 10 minutes but, in the end, it should be rinsed out.
2. Shampoo your whole dog, including its ears. Do not be afraid to get soap and water in the ears. We recommend that the ears be shampooed and flushed with **CHLORHEXIDERM** shampoo since it is effective against bacteria and yeasts. This shampoo can be used on the whole body and need not be confined only to the ears. Again, be liberal with the shampoo and water and make sure that you massage and flush the ear often. A soft rubber bulb syringe will help flush the ear excrement out. Sometimes you may need to flush and massage several times to get the waxy material out. When you think you are finished, rinse again with water until clear.
3. When you are all finished, and your pet has shaken all the excess water out of its ears, apply some of the **OTIRINSE “EAR CLEANSING/ DRYING LOTION”**. Our goal is to have clean **DRY** ears. We will be glad to show you how. If your pet experiences any **PAIN** during this procedure **STOP**, rinse out and call us.

This flushing should be done _____ times per week for _____ weeks and _____ thereafter. You may monitor the progress of the healthy ear by wiping with baby wipes often.