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Ear Cleaning Technique

1. Shake the ear cleaner before use.
2. Insert the nozzle of the ear cleaner into the ear opening. The ear canal is located in the lowest portion of that general 'ear opening' you can see. The nozzle should easily slip into the opening and down the canal. Insert the nozzle all the way in or until there is slight resistance. Dogs ear canals are 'L' shaped so you will not hit the ear drum unless you are extremely forceful.
3. Squeeze the ear cleaner bottle until some solution begins to spill up and out of the ear canal – then you know you have filled the canal.
4. Massage the ear after application. This should involve firmly massaging the side of the head below the ear, this is where the dogs long ear canal runs under the skin, in most cases you will be able to feel the canal. Then allow the dog to shake its head and expel excess flush.
5. After flushing you may have some loosened wax or debris appearing, wipe it away with a tissue or baby wipe.
6. If your dog requires a post ear cleaning medication apply it 20 minutes AFTER cleaning so the cleaning solution does not deactivate/alter components of the medication rendering it useless. In most cases this will involve applying some drops of medication into the ear canal and then massaging it well so it spreads about within the ear canal.

Important Tips on Ear Cleaning

1. Most dogs will require secure holding, as they may be scared due to previous ear problems, Otoflush and Epi-Otic do not hurt. Hold their muzzle, it's a great handle and hold the neck into your chest.
2. A 'bottom backstop person' maybe required for real wrigglers.
3. Close your mouth and eyes when your dog shakes ear cleaner from its ears.
4. Cotton tips maybe used to help clean out folds at the ear opening but should not be inserted down into the canal. If your dog is due for a bath it is recommended the flushing be done after their bath.

If you have any problems with ear cleaning at home, call your vet to schedule an appointment to have the ears cleaned under Sedation which makes it stress free for pet and owner.