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Ear Care

A lot of dogs have a chronic problem with their ears. Dogs with long ears, hairy ears or dogs that like water seem to have the most problems. The problem is created by the environment in the ear canal. The canal is a long tube that goes vertically for several inches and then turns horizontally until it is stopped by the ear drum. This long warm and frequently moist canal is the perfect environment for bacteria and yeast to flourish. Also a waxy substance is produced in the ear canal that adds to this rich environment.

If a dog is shaking its head, scratching at the ears or a foul odor is coming from the ear area, an infection should be suspected.

If the ears are inflamed, give the dog 25 mg. of Benedryl. If it is a large dog, give it 50 mg.

Clean the ears thoroughly with an ear wash that is specifically made for dogs. Clean the vertical canal only, with cotton balls. Rub the cleaner in by massaging the ear canal from the outside.

Put a small amount of the prescribed antibiotic in the canal and rub it in very well so that it is distributed all the way down to the ear drum.

If the doctor prescribes an ear drying solution put it in after the antibiotic and rub it in thoroughly. Use it twice a week or if the dog gets in water use it more often.

Occasionally oral medication will also be prescribed, use it until it is gone.

If your dog starts showing any ear symptoms start work on them right away and you may avoid a trip to the vet.