

SOME PREDISPOSING CAUSES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTITIS EXTERNA

- Length and conformation of the ear canal.
- A lack of significant opening into the canal, which may reduce air circulation
- Heat and humidity will tend to make the ear canal suitable for bacteria and yeast growth
- Frequent swimming may increase moisture in ear canals and facilitate the growth of bacteria and yeast "swimmers ear".

YOUR PROFESSIONAL PET STYLIST

Most Professional Pet Stylists try very hard not to drench the ear canals with water during the bath, and take care to dry the ears after the bath to the best of their ability. Boric acid based cleaners are used along with absorbent cotton pads, as well as drying the inner ear flap with a dryer.

But the bottom line is **WATER DOES NOT CAUSE EAR INFECTIONS!**

REGULAR CLEANING

Regular cleaning of the ear canal is an important and necessary part of regular grooming to remove excess debris and ear wax. There are many safe and easy to use products on the market that you may buy through your local pet store or veterinary clinic.

As dog owners you should be inspecting your dog's ears weekly to make sure they are healthy and clean. It is important to regularly handle the dogs ears so you become familiar with how the ear canals look and smell thereby making it easier to notice an irregularity. Regular ear examinations also help to train the dog to accept ear exams as a part of life. This way if an ear infection does happen, it will be easier to treat and not as traumatic for the pet.

If your dogs ears are excessively red, dirty, smelly, painful or if the dog is scratching at their ears or rubbing them, or twitching and shaking their head, you should contact your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.

