

# Giving Ear Drops to Your Pet:

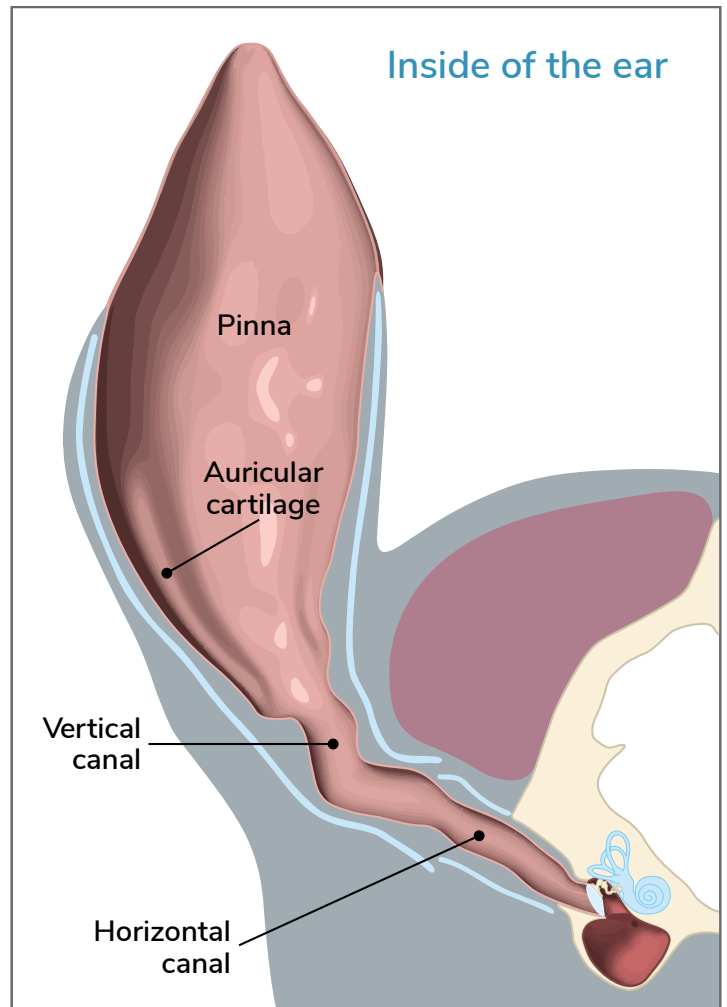
## *Tips and Information for Administering Ear Drops*

### Administering ear drops

1. Securely hold your pet; you may need to safely restrain them before administering ear drops.
2. Hold the ear drop medication between your thumb and index finger, in one hand, while gently pulling the ear up and back with your other hand.
  - This will allow you to see into the ear canal.
3. Apply the prescribed number of drops into the ear canal while holding the ear flap upright.
  - Do not put the dropper too deep into the ear canal.
  - You should always be able to see the tip of the dropper.
4. Once the medication is applied, rub the base of the ear in a circular motion, applying pressure to your pet's head to massage the medication into the ear canal.
5. Release the ear and let your dog shake its head to help get any dirt and excess medication out.

### Important considerations for ear medications

1. Your pet's ear may be painful due to inflammation and/or infection. Always be cautious and gentle when giving ear drops.
2. If the ear drops are refrigerated they may be unpleasant or painful for your pet. Some medications can be warmed to room temperature before administration.
  - Do not heat these medications; let them sit outside of the refrigerator before giving, or gently roll in your hands until warm.



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## Making Medication Administration Easier

Giving medications to pets can be a very challenging and scary experience. In order to keep both yourself and your pet safe, it is important that you know how to restrain them prior to giving medicine. If you are not familiar with proper restraint techniques, please request our flier, *Keeping Yourself and Your Pet Safe When Giving Medications: How to restrain your pet*.

You should use proper restraint techniques when you give eye drops, ear drops and injections. It may also be necessary when giving pills to your pet. Having a routine prior to giving medicine can make it a more positive experience for your pet, which will eventually make it an easier process.

If you feel uncomfortable injecting medications, do not be afraid to **ask for help!**

*If your pet is very FEARFUL or AGGRESSIVE when administering medications, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Behavioral Medicine department for more information at 614-292-4655 or OSUVET.BehaviorMedicine@osu.edu.*

## Helpful Tips

- Be calm and confident. Acting nervous or making sudden movements may make your pet more anxious about the process.
- If your dog has a history of biting or aggression, it may be necessary to apply a muzzle.
- Having a second person who can hold the animal and give them treats can make it easier for you to focus on giving the medication.
- Refer to our Behavioral Medicine department for great tips and training tricks to help ease this process!

*This handout is intended to provide general information.*

*If you have **specific questions**, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy at **614-292-1010**.*