

Everyday Maintenance Tips

Bloodhounds have long ears so the ear canal does get less air and light than other breeds. Weekly checks (or more if necessary) and cleaning are advisable. Some hounds produce more wax than others and build up can lead to bacterial infections if not spotted and treated early enough. When cleaning it is not advisable to use an instrument of any kind or go into the ear further than finger depth.

Listed below are a few preparations submitted by experienced Bloodhound owners which have proved beneficial :-

Virbac Epi-otic

Fidovet Surosolve

Quistel

These are antibacterial and antibiotic flushes, good for warding off parasites. Quistel is good for keeping on top of yeast infections. All of these can be easily obtained on the internet.

Some owners use home-made preparations such as Cider Vinegar & water (half and half) or if this is too strong a mix for your hound use 1 part vinegar to 10 parts water. The natural antibiotic properties of the cider vinegar keep the ear hole acidic. This deters microbes/parasites

Another cleaning recipe is half a pint Witch Hazel (available at local chemist), 2 tablespoons Boric Acid Powder, 8 drops of Gentian Violet (both available from the internet). Mix all ingredients together in an airtight jar. Shake well before use and between application to each ear. Apply using a small syringe – approximately 10 ml per ear and massage behind the ear to ensure distribution. Use a non-alcohol wipe to remove any excess.

For general daily cleaning of the ears the following can be used:-

Baby wipes – unperfumed

Malacetic wipes

Dampened cotton wool pads

Your hound should see a vet without delay if any of the following is seen:-

a) If your hound's ears have a smelly discharge

b) The skin of the ear is inflamed

c) Excessive scratching and rubbing is seen

If your hound has developed a bacterial infection **Otomax** is excellent but only available from your vet. **Surolan** is also effective and available from the vet.

We do not take responsibility for the effectiveness of any of the products on your hound but the above preparations have been tried by several bloodhound owners with success.