

# Ear Care Articles

## Ear Care Instructions

by Ray Carlisle

**L**eave cups on as long as possible, and at least until stitches are out. If cups fall off, do not replace.

### Next day after cropping

Dab on hydrogen peroxide three times a day. Be careful not to drop peroxide down in ear canal. Continue every day until stitches come out.

### Day 5-7

Remove running suture on edge of ear  
Clean with peroxide

Take out 3 base sutures  
Clean with peroxide

Let edges heal open to the air for one day. Start using ointment (A&D ointment, Vitamin E, Neosporin ointment, Bag Balm, etc.) to edges. Apply from base to tip. Insert by gently pulling on the cup as you massage in ointment. Keep ears clean and also avoid getting pockets by continually stretching the ears. When the edges are healed, begin posting using the method of your choice.

Best of luck and good wishes with your puppy!



# Ear taping the Old Fashioned Way

By Ray Carlisle

## Materials you will need for each puppy

Surgical glue

Peroxide

Neosporin ointment

Paper towels (I prefer Bounty because they are soft)

2 regular tampons

1 roll of 1" Zonas tape (this is an aerated cloth tape available through your veterinarian or at a surgical supply store. It allows the ear to breathe and is the best tape to use for this purpose.)

1 person to hold the puppy gently while you tape the ears

1 coffee stirrer or plastic straw, cut to desired length.

## Prepare your materials

Two 2" long strips

Two 4" long strips

Four 10" long strips

One 12" long strip

## Prepare the tampons

1. Remove paper wrapping
2. Pull the cylinders apart and cut off the string
3. Replace the cylinder (one into the other) so that the cotton is visible at one end
4. Take one 2" piece of tape and wrap it around the section where the two cylinders are joined (to hold them together)
5. Take one 10" piece of tape and press an end onto the TOP (non-cotton end) of the tampon.
6. Reverse the direction of the tape and wrap the tampon in an overlapping, continuous column of tape, STICKY SIDE OUT, to cover approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cylinder. Leave the cotton exposed.
7. Repeat the procedure with the other Tampon
8. Set the prepared tampons aside on a clean, dry surface.

## Ear Taping Procedure

1. Clean the ears gently with paper towels saturated in peroxide. Hold the paper towel in the palm of your hand and cup it around the ear, cleaning the entire ear thoroughly, including the cut edge. Gently remove as much of the scabbing as possible but avoid making the cut edge bleed.
2. Dry the ears thoroughly with fresh, dry paper towels.
3. If the edges are still healing, gently rub a small amount of Neosporin ointment into the cut area. This will keep the edge soft and help prevent it from "puckering" or shrinking. However, you DO want a straight, clean edge of scar tissue to form on the edge, because this will help to hold the ear up when the tape is removed.
4. Gently grasp the tip of the ear, pulling it straight up so that the ear is stretched. Apply surgical glue to the inside of the ear from the base to tip of ear. KEEP THE EAR STRETCHED THROUGHOUT THIS PROCEDURE.
5. Coat the cotton end of the tampon with Neosporin. Insert the prepared tampon into the ear as deep as you can go WITHOUT FORCING IT.
6. Press the sticky tampon to the inside of the ear.



7. Take one 10" strip of tape and press one end into the tampon at the base of the ear and tape around the base in the direction of the ear fold (towards the inside), making sure the fold is not twisted or squeezed but is in a natural position. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO WRAP THE TAPE TOO TIGHTLY!** Remember, the purpose of taping is to **HELP** the ear to stand on its own; the more the ear has to work to support itself, the stronger it will be.

**MAKE SURE YOU TAPE THE BASE OF THE EAR IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION!** Wrap the tape around the base at least twice, then continue up the ear with tape overlapping the last one. Use the whole strip of tape. Gently stroke the taped ear in the direction you have taped while holding the top part of the ear (and tampon).

8. Take one 4" strip of tape and wrap it gently around the top of the ear, so that just the tiniest bit of ear tip is exposed. **BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO WRAP THE TAPE TOO TIGHT!**

**DO NOT LET THE TIP CURL.** The only other part of the ear left exposed will be between the two strips of tape (the middle of the ear). As the puppy grows and the ears become longer, the exposed area between the two strips of tape will become larger and the ear will have less and less support from the tape. **THAT IS DESIREABLE** because we want the puppy to be using its ears and strengthening the muscles without depending solely on the tape to hold them up.

9. Repeat steps 3 through 7 on the other ear
10. Holding both ears in an upright position (the way you want them to be when the ears are standing on their own), take the 12" strip of tape and press one end to the ear, wrapping it once around the base then make a bridge to the other ear. Wrap it around the base to the other ear, then back across the head. Sandwich the coffee stirrer or straw between, creating a rigid bridge adhering sticky side of tape to sticky side of tape. Repeat until the full strip of tape is used.

The coffee stirrer or straw should be cut to the desired length. Step back and see how the ears look; they should be in the same position you want them when they are standing on their own.

If the puppy starts fussing with its ears during the next day or so, you may have wrapped the tape too tightly around the tip or base of its ears. Watch for signs of swelling, redness, or infection.

Correctly taped ears should be comfortable to the puppy after the first few minutes. They should remain taped in position for approximately one week at a time. **DO NOT LET THE EARS CURL, WRINKLE, OR SHRIVEL**, especially while the edges are healing.

After 7 days, remove the tampon and wash the ears, allowing them to air dry. Ears should stand for a short time on their own—allow 1 day if possible, but never long enough for the ears to fall. Retape following the same procedure, making sure **NEVER TO ALLOW THE EARS TO CURL OR FALL!**

*If you need further help or are not sure about taping the ears yourself, call me. I'm here to help!*



# The no tape ear taping method

By Leslie Hall (Method by Dr. Robert Weber)

**A**ll but the two that are staying are gone—from a flood of nine puppies down to a trickle—from a thundering herd, to a pitter-patter. It's been twelve weeks since their birth, six weeks since they were cropped. Their ears have been posted for the last five weeks—no crimps, no crinkles and when you talk silly to them they wrinkle their brows—ears straight up, without a spec of tape—a bridge—or a rack.

They've been together—all nine at the beginning, without a stay coming down due to the other pups. When they bump into something (usually another brother, there were eight males, one bitch—whew!) their ears bend, then spring right back.

We used this method five days after the litter was cropped. The ears were cared for while they were up, resulting in no crimps or curls from scar tissue on cut edges. Of course, you must be extremely careful while putting them up, but the cropped edge was easily accessible.

If the puppies are newly cropped, it's easier to do this with two people, but it can be done with one. Two people can do a litter of nine in less than an hour and a half—including preparation! Sounds incredible? It is—THIS is the miracle method, the “recipe” follows:

## Ingredients

One (1) puppy (more if you're lucky...)

One (1) square Dr. Scholl's Molefoam (NOT moleskin) per 2 pups

Available at any drugstore or discount store

Surgical glue—SKIN BOND is excellent

Scissors

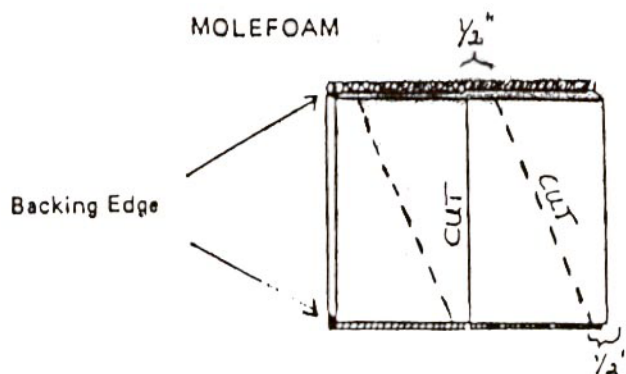
A ruler and pen

## Here's the How Tos:

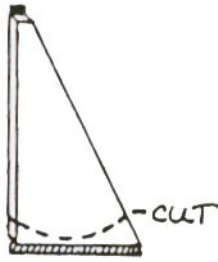
1. Clean all the ears well, with peroxide for newly cut ears, alcohol for healed ears.
2. Take as many squares of molefoam needed—two pups per square, and prepare as follows:

Do all of one step before proceeding to the next (i.e., cut six squares in half, then do the next step on each stay.) It goes faster.

LEAVE PLASTIC BACKING ON MOLE-

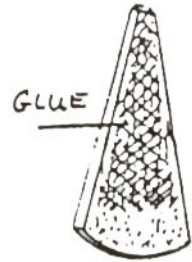


FOAM UNTIL ALL CUTTING IS DONE.



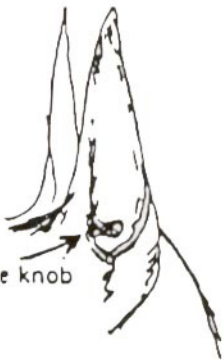
Using the ruler, measure halfway—vertically from backing edge to backing edge (see illustration). Now, take the ruler and draw a line diagonally from corner to corner—leaving a half inch at top. Cut following lines.

Cut off bottom in a slight arc, this removes the “points,” rounding the portion to go in the bell.



Pell off plastic backing on all stays to be used. There is adhesive on the foam, but it is not sticky enough to stay put.

Place an ample amount of glue on the white, sticky side, starting from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch up from the bottom. Glue ALL stays to be used, and set aside.



Now, place an ample amount of glue, being sure to completely cover the ear evenly, starting from the little knob just above the canal (see illustration). Wait a minute or so, NOT the four or five minutes as instructed on the glue, being careful not to let pup shake head, or you'll glue the ear to the side of the head.

Now, roll the base of the stay.

Being careful not to let the stay stick to the ear before you have positioned it well into the canal (as far down as you would place any other method of posting). Holding ear in the position you want it to stand, attaché the stay, from the bottom up, straightening edges on the hearing ears. Rub stay to ear to make sure it's well adhered.



## Voila! C'est Ca! Finis!

Don't worry about taking the stay out, they fall out by themselves in about ten days from the oil on the pup's ear. They seem to be virtually “puppyproof,” as the other chew on them, etc., but they don't come out prematurely. There's no problem at all with infection or glop inside the ear canal, because air can get in freely. There's no danger of taping too tight, or cuts and gouges from tape at the base.

It is an incredibly safe, easy, PAINLESS method. I did not think it up, (wish I did!), it was handed to me third person, but it is super.

