

## LEAVING WELL ENOUGH ALONE

“Some people want to clean their cats’ ears just because they’re there,” says Dr. William Miller. “Don’t do that! The only reason to clean an animal’s ears is if there is a specific medical condition and your veterinarian has prescribed the appropriate medication and has carefully instructed you on how to use it.”

Often, he laments, an owner will routinely clean a cat’s ears with water or alcohol. “If you do this too often or if you use too much of these liquids,” he points out, “you’re likely to upset the natural microclimate within the cat’s ears and damage the flora — the fungi and bacteria — that exist there.

If you destroy the natural yeast, you may be making the animal susceptible to other fungal invasions in the ear canal. Normal cats don’t need ear care. If you think there’s a problem, see a veterinarian. Otherwise, leave well enough alone!”