



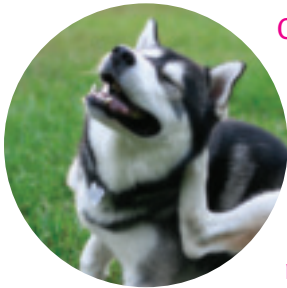
Know Your Dog

5 Signs of Fear

- 1 **Cowering/lowered stance**
- 2 **Dilated pupils** and a turned gaze so the whites of the eyes show
- 3 **Raised hackles**
- 4 **Tail tucked under** or, alternatively, frantic wagging
- 5 **Panting**

Sanity Saver

Protect your door from your dog with Doggieshield. The lightweight, acrylic board easily affixes to any door with Velcro and nylon (without leaving permanent marks behind) and withstands scratches from small to large breeds. doorstrap.com



Control the fleas your pup is exposed to this spring by treating your lawn with beneficial nematodes. These

microscopic round-worms, existing naturally in soil around the world, seek out flea larvae and kill them, reducing the flea population in your yard and, hence, on your dog. Available at garden centers, organic nurseries, and some pet stores.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Clean Ears

If your dog is of the long-haired variety, an avid swimmer, or a breed disposed to ear infections—such as Cockers, Retrievers and Terriers—his or her ear canals should be cleaned once every two weeks. Here's our DIY guide to at-home ear care.

1. **Choose a small room** where your squirmy dog can be confined and, if possible, keep an assistant or muzzle on hand to aid the process.
2. **Have on hand** an ear cleaning solution (we like Epi-Pet Ear Cleaner or Happytails' Ear Aid), cotton balls, and a flashlight. Avoid solutions containing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
3. **Hold your dog's ear flap** in one hand and squirt approximately 1 tsp (for small dogs) to 1 tbsp (for large dogs) of solution into the ear canal (follow instructions on ear-cleaning solution packaging). Release the flap immediately and massage the base of the ear for a few seconds to distribute the solution and loosen the wax. Allow Fido to shake out the excess liquid and repeat on the opposite ear.
4. **Wipe out the wax** from the first ear flap using a cotton ball and employing a vertical scooping action and clean out the creases. Use the flashlight to illuminate any build-up you might have missed, ensure the canal is dry, and then repeat the process on the opposite ear. Clean vertically and avoid pushing anything (e.g., cotton ball or your finger) in horizontally towards the dog's head; this will damage the ear drum.
5. **Have a vet or groomer show you** the first time which hair needs to be plucked, and always avoid the hairs at the edge of the ear canal as this area is full of nerve endings.

The Fountain of Woofth

Good news for us dog lovers. According to celebrity dermatologist Jessica Wu, having pets helps fight off the inevitable signs of aging. While speaking to your favourite furry friend, your blood pressure drops and your face relaxes, especially around the eyes, which softens crow's feet. All in all, a great argument (if you needed one) for adding another furry pack member to your family. —Melissa Barr

Cleaning up poop never looked so good! Hold your cash, cards, 100% biodegradable Perfect Poop Pickup Pouches, and your Ipood—oops, Ipod—all in one place with this pretty BowZer Buddy. \$16.95 (includes two refill rolls), bowzerbuddy.com

