

GUIDE TO EAR TAPING

What is the natural look in a Doberman? What is the natural ear exactly? The natural ear in the dog is the prick ear. Let's look at the natural dog. The pariah dog has a prick ear. So does the dingo. So does every natural dog on the face of the earth. As a matter of fact check all mammals. They all have prick ears with some notable exceptions: humans and dolphins.

Do you think there is no reason for cropping? There are health reasons. The erect ear gets better air circulation and has less infection problems. Check with your veterinarian and ask her if the hound ear has more infection problems than the prick ear. Now maybe she just hasn't been paying attention and hasn't catalogued the ears with infections. I have. Cropping is good animal husbandry. What about the taping? Some people are worried about the pain incurred with taping. If you are, use masking tape. If the cropped dogs are with their littermates, masking tape will come off in 10-30 hours. Then you just re-tape them with masking tape. What does this accomplish?

- 1) Infection is reduced considerably and/or is more readily spotted.
- 2) Air circulation is increased.
- 3) You learn to do a better job of taping.
- 4) You learn to do a faster job of taping.
- 5) Minor improvements in how you tape the ears insure better end results.
- 6) There is no pain and no strain.
- 7) The puppies don't develop hand shyness around the ears as sometimes happens with traditional taping. As a matter of fact, they may enjoy the taping. You're giving them extra attention. Rather than hand shyness they welcome hands around the ears.

Humans have bred and developed dogs with unnatural ears so let's get rid of all the sporting dogs and the trail hounds. Then there are the - well you get the idea.

Shall we replace good animal husbandry with political correctness? Walt Disney's Goofy has hound ears. Do you want a pretty dog or a goofy dog?

SOME TAPING SUGGESTIONS

If you have access to a source for Skin Bond ask them about a product made by the same manufacturer that is called Skin Prep. It is a small pad, individually wrapped in a foil packet with twenty-five packets to a box. Use one pad to do both ears. It applies as a liquid but quickly dries to an invisible protective coating on the skin inside the ear. Go way down into the ear base. Allow to dry for one minute and then apply the Skin Prep and the ear peg of your personal choice. Apply Neo-Predef powder to the backside (hair side) of the ears, making sure to cover the pocket near the base. Now use a roll of gauze to wrap the entire ear, if your puppy has allergies to tape, from the base to almost the tip. Then apply overlapping strips of tape. If you still have reaction problems to the ear tape, use vet wrap instead of tape to cover the gauze completely. Make sure you catch a small bit of skin and hair near the base and at the tip so the gauze doesn't go flying when the pup shakes it's head. With this method you will never have any of those nasty oozing tape reactions or blisters in the bases of the ears or anywhere else on the ears again.

submitted courtesy of Noreen DePalma, USA

With all the talk about taping ears---I thought I'd pass along the method I use to roll the ears. After reading about the duct tape around the caulking and the tampon method, I feel that perhaps this method may help some that are having problems with the other methods.

For newly cropped puppies take a sheet of Bounty paper towel (Bounty because it is thicker and absorbent). Fold the sheet into quarters and then take the square of paper towel and on a table begin to TIGHTLY roll the paper towel into a tube. Then take the tape (I use a silky cloth tape by 3M called Durapore in one inch size which is quite sticky) and secure the roll about one inch from the bottom of the tube of paper. Tape it around, then flip the roll around and keeping the roll tight and the tape pulled taut, work up the roll, tape side out, to the top, then down again. Usually taping the roll up and then down the tube will be enough to stiffen the tube.

Then I use either a product called Skin Bond by Smith & Nephew (1-800-876-1261) which is a natural rubber adhesive used for "stomas" from colostomy's and illiostomy's OR eyelash glue that can be purchased at Walmart. It is a white glue that you will thinly brush on the inside of the ear. Blow on the glue to dry it slightly and thus make it tacky, then insert the taped tube into the ear with the one inch of exposed paper towel, to act like a "wick" end, as far as possible into the ear canal. Then squeeze the ear around the tube to make sure the ear/glue is in good contact. After that, proceed to take your strips of tape, starting at the base and proceed to tape according to Carol Petruzzo's method on the pages **taping 8** and **taping 9**.

The use of the glue prevents the puppy from popping the tubes out of the bottom of the ears. On older puppies use one and one-half paper towels rolled into a tube. It is simply a thicker tube for the larger ear. The glue can be used with tampons and the tubing but the paper towel (Bounty) does a great job with the ears and does it cheaply. Give it a try.

Theresa Mullen, Terrylane, USA

What I've used lately for pockets or sinks is *packing popcorn* (foam, not real popcorn) (the ones that are about one inch in length ... possibly a little longer) .Reverse tape it like you would a plug for ears. Pull the ear straight up and look on the outside of the ear for the dimple which is about 1/2 inch from the head on the uncropped side. Stick the "popcorn" inside the dimple (on inside of ear) until the dimple is forced out and put a strip of tape around the ear holding the taped popcorn in place. Leave this up for 5 days, take down and see how ears look. If they go back to the same, repeat procedure as many times as it takes to straighten out ear. Do not tape up much higher than the popcorn. Ears should look straight. Don't use brace between ears. If done correctly, they should stand straight.

Judy Bohnert, Equinox, Canada

CORRECTING POCKETS OR SINKS

You can cut wine corks in half lengthwise which will give you two pieces, one for each ear. Back wrap the cork with tape (sticky side out) and place the curved side inside the ear with the base resting below the little 'button' inside the ear. Wrap tape around the cork and the ear being very careful not to get it too tight. Take about three pieces of tape to cover the entire length of the cork. Since there is nothing inside the base of the ear you can leave the corks in for several days. It may take a few tapings but it is a pretty effective method.