

How to Post Ears, Ear Posting Tips

To help Doberman puppies stand up after ear cropping, "ear posting" involves taping the ears to a post or rod, using tape to hold the ears in a vertical position until they naturally stand up. Keep the posts in place for as long as they will stick, 3-5 days. Do not leave posts in if the ears get wet, or after exercising as this increases the risk of ear infection.

Preparation:

- Materials: You'll need a backer rod (or a similar soft but sturdy, rounded object), 1 inch wide medical tape (like 3M Transpore Surgical Tape or Curad Performance Series Premium Porous Tape), and a helper if possible.
- Helper: Have someone hold the puppy's muzzle while you work on the ears.
- Patience: This process can be time-consuming and requires patience, especially if the puppy is uncomfortable.

Clean the Ears:

- Using an alcohol wipe, baby wipes, or a warm wash cloth with a mild soap, clean out the ear including down into the bell. Clean out the natural buildup of wax and oils. Careful not to scrub the ear raw.

Rod Placement:

- Insert the backer rod down into the bell of the ear, stretching the ear pinna up and around the bottom of the rod.

Taping:

- Begin at the bottom front of the ear, taping diagonally up and around the front, across the pinna, and diagonally down and around the back. Make sure the flap is pushed back against the ear.
- Overlap each piece of tape by at least 50%.
- Continue taping until you have reached the top of the ear and completely covered the post.
- Ensure the tape is secure but not too tight.
- Repeat for the other ear

Methods for Taping the Base;

1) Begin at the bottom front of the ear, taping diagonally and around the front, across the pinna, and diagonally down and around the back, creating an "X" or "figure 8" on the head.

2) Cut a tape piece length twice the width of the head. Rip both ends about two inches leaving the center intact. Wrap one piece of one end around the base of the ear, pulling the ear up and slightly outwards. Fold the center of the tape together, leaving the split end open. Wrap the one half of the split end around the base of the other ear, then do the same with the remaining piece.

Alternative Methods:

- Some people use Breathe Right Nasal strips to help brace the ear tip straight up.
- Others use mole foam or zip ties for taping (Zip Tie Method)

Tips for Success:

- Clean Ears: Ensure the ears are clean and dry before posting.
- Watch for Reactions: Monitor your puppy for any signs of irritation or discomfort from the tape or posts including excessive head shaking, whining, excessive scratching, swelling of the ear or face, ears/face hot to the touch.
- Be Gentle: Handle the puppy gently and avoid causing any pain or stress. Don't wrap the tape too tight.
- Practice: Watch videos and read articles on ear posting before you start to familiarize yourself with the process.
- Persistence: Don't give up if the ears don't stand up immediately; it takes time and consistency. On average it takes 3-18 months to finish posting.