Ear wax build up is not uncommon in dogs. Ear wax or cerumen is a substance that naturally develops in the dog’s ears. Ear wax is a mixture of ear debris, sweat and dead skin. Excessive ear wax buildup can make the dog uncomfortable because of the itch. However, ear wax has a very important function. This naturally occurring substance filters dust and prevents small insects and foreign objects from entering the ears thus infection to the inner part of the ears and to the ear drums are prevented. Some breeds are known to produce excessive ear wax. Labradors and other floppy eared retrievers that spend a lot of time in water to hunt would benefit from excessive ear wax buildup. The soft dark brown wax protects the ears while the dog is in the water. Long eared dogs like Basset hounds produce extra amounts of ear wax as the skin inside the ears are rarely exposed to air circulation. Normal amount of ear wax is healthy but excessive production of this substance can result to infections as excess ear wax will keep the inner ear moist and encourage the growth of bacteria. Moreover, excessive ear wax can block the ear canal and hamper the hearing ability of the pet. Next to the sense of smell, hearing is a very important sense of a dog.