



HEALTHY HINTS



BACTERIAL SKIN DISORDERS (PYODERMAS) IN DOGS AND CATS

Pyodermas are bacterial infections of the skin. They are very common in dogs and uncommon in cats where they are frequently a secondary infection to some underlying condition or health problem.

Although seldom fatal, many of these disorders become chronic – they can be controlled, but not cured and require frequent, if not lifelong, treatment.

Owners and vets alike are often frustrated by the degree of difficulty in diagnosing these cases. Seek veterinary advice if your pet shows any symptoms of a bacterial skin problem and allow your veterinarian to determine the cause by careful examination of the case history and use of modern diagnostic measures to decide a course of treatment.

TYPES OF PYODERMAS

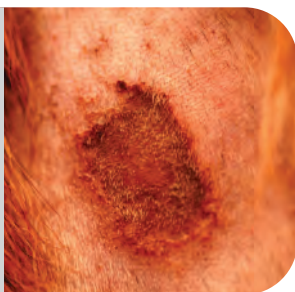
Acne

People are sometimes surprised to learn that dogs and cats get acne. Just like in humans, it is mostly a disease of puberty affecting the sebaceous areas of the chin and lips and sometimes the inner thighs, belly and tail.

DOG ACNE



HOT SPOTS



Hot Spots (acute Moist Dermatitis, Moist (wet) Eczema, Pyotraumatic Dermatitis)

Usually a seasonal problem when weather is hot and humid. They are the result of scratching or biting an area of the skin to the point that skin bacteria, or bacteria from the environment establish themselves in the inflamed skin, causing an incredible amount of surface damage within 12-48 hours.

Folliculitis, Skin Fold Dermatitis, And Impetigo (superficial Pustular Pyoderma)

They involve flare ups in otherwise normal skin bacteria. The cause is more subtle than the above condition and the outcome usually less dramatic. Skin fold infections problems occur where skin touches skin (vulva lips, tail to anal area, lip folds, and breeds and individuals with

facial skin folds, or Sharpeis where the whole body is made of skin folds). Life- time hygiene is sometimes needed to control these diseases which simply means frequent cleaning of the area.

FOLLICITIS



CALLUS



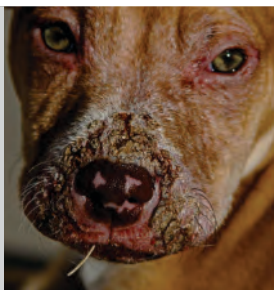
Deep Pyoderma Include Interdigital (between the toes), Juvenile (Puppy Strangles), Pressure Point Pyoderma (callus), Perianal, And Generalized Pyoderma.

With the exception of Puppy Strangles which is usually easy to treat (although it can take 2 months to heal), all the deep pyoderma diseases can be frustratingly difficult to treat, and even when treated successful the problem frequently re-occurs.

Seborrhoea

This skin condition is characterised by excessive scaling or greasiness. Abnormal sebum secretions which leads to oiliness, scales, increased ear wax, "doggy" odor and dandruff. This is usually a life long problem and requires an owner willing to keep up with life long treatment and management.

PUPPY STRANGLES



SEBORRHOEA



CAUSES OF BACTERIAL SKIN CONDITIONS

Staphylococci ('Staph bacteria') are the most common organisms found in bacterial skin diseases (pyodermas) in dogs. Fortunately, these bacteria are not contagious to humans or other pets.

INDICATIONS

Commonly itchy, yellow pustules are often observed early in the disease, and the dog's skin can be reddened and ulcerated. Dry, crusted areas

appear as the condition advances, along with loss of hair in the affected areas (lesions) and an odor.

DIAGNOSIS

This is usually made from the case history and appearance and location of the lesions. In some cases, it may be necessary to culture the skin (grow the bacteria) and conduct sensitivity tests to determine which antibiotic will be effective in treatment. Most bacterial skin infections in dogs are secondary to other diseases such as parasitism, allergies, endocrine (hormonal) disorders or abnormalities in the immune system which is why it is important to consult your veterinarian to determine the underlying causes. It may be necessary to do blood tests, allergy tests or skin biopsies to achieve a complete diagnosis.

TREATMENT

Initial treatments may entail removal of the hair in and around the lesions, washing of the whole dog with a germicidal shampoo such as F10 Germicidal Treatment Shampoo, then careful drying the area before applying a germicidal ointment such as F10 Germicidal Barrier Ointment to local lesions. In most cases, systemic antibiotics will also be administered orally for 3-4 weeks. Bandages or a protective collar which prevents the animal from mutilating the lesions may be applied. It may be necessary to continue treatments such as antiseptic shampooing, antiseptic ointment applications and giving antibiotics orally for prolonged periods. While most cases respond well to treatment, recurrences of pyoderma are common, particularly if treatment recommendations and follow-up visits to your veterinarian are neglected.

SHAVE AREA



WASH ANIMALS



REDUCING THE RISK OF DISEASE

Good hygiene will prevent or at least minimise diseases. As a guideline for cleaning and disinfection which is tried and proven in hundreds of veterinary clinics, refer to the table: Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

| APPLICATION | FREQUENCY | DILUTION /10 LITRES | MINIMUM EXPOSURE |
|---|--|--|---|
| HOUSING Isolate all diagnosed and visibly infected animals immediately. Infected puppies must be isolated with the mother. Remove all bedding and equipment (e.g. toys, brushes, water and feed bowls) from cages, floors. Soak bedding and equipment in F10SC before washing. Hang to dry / tumble dry. Wash water and feed bowls with warm water and F10SCXD, spray with F10SC and leave to dry. Wash all surfaces (work benches, floors, tables, walls, tiles) with F10SCXD. | Daily Daily Daily | 40 ml 40 ml 40 ml | 30 min Leave to dry Leave to dry |
| STAFF Handling of animals should be limited and involve as few people as possible. Staff movement must be restricted to designated areas. Infected animals and areas should be handled last to avoid cross-contamination. Protective clothing should be worn and discarded or washed and disinfected daily. Proper hand decontamination (running water, F10 antiseptic liquid soap and paper towel to dry or use F10 Hand Gel) must be done after any animals or possible infected material such as bedding had been handled. | Daily In between handling animals | 40 ml 4 ml as is | Soak 30 min, hang to dry 30 sec |
| GENERAL Grass should be kept short and exposed to as much sun as possible. Carrier boxes must be washed (F10SCXD) and disinfected (F10SC) after every use and left to dry. All cleaning equipment (mops, cloths, brushes) must be washed with F10SCXD and disinfected with F10SC at the end of each day. | After every use At the end of each shift | 40 ml 40ml | Leave to dry Hang to dry |
| ANIMAL TREATMENT Wash ALL animals immediately with F10 Germicidal Treatment Shampoo to prevent the disease from spreading. Repeat for up to 3 treatments on every other day on infected animals and once a week on non-infected animals. Apply F10 Germicidal Barrier Ointment to affected lesions once daily. Remove all organic material and ointment with F10SC (1:250) before re-applying the Ointment. | Every other day or as prescribed by veterinarian | As is As is As is 40 ml | Leave 15 min rinse Leave 15 min rinse Leave to dry - |

F10[®]

PRODUCTS



VETERINARY PRACTICE



Health and Hygiene