

& Coat Problems?

The skin is the largest organ of the body, and in our pets weighs about 15% of their entire weight. The skin is particularly sensitive to changes in the body's internal environment, so any significant stress may cause visible signs of trouble.

Bacterial Skin Diseases

Staphylococci are the most common organisms found in bacterial skin disease in dogs. This germ causes itchiness, redness and dry, crusted areas as the condition advances, along with loss of hair and an odour. A great many dogs will benefit from a course of antibiotics to counter Staphylococci.

Fungal Skin Diseases

The fungal skin infections of dogs are caused primarily by two types of fungi, yeasts or ringworm. The yeasts live in moist areas, the ringworm in dead skin tissues, hairs and nails. Ringworm is not common in dogs, but very common in cats. Conversely, yeast infections are more common in dogs. Often your vet will take a sample from your pet's skin or ears to identify these organisms.

Allergic Skin Diseases

The most common allergy dogs develop is to flea saliva. The effect of a flea bite can persist for 3 weeks, so fleas are not always seen on the coat of a dog with flea allergy.

Atopy is an itchy skin disease started by skin contact or inhaled contact with particles such as house dust, moulds and pollens. This common form of allergy is largely inherited and usually starts at a relatively young age. Another type of hypersensitivity is known as a 'contact allergy' usually to plants or textiles. Some pets can also be allergic to mosquitoes, flies and midges. Food allergies are uncommon and usually cause diarrhoea as well as skin lesions.

Parasitic Skin Diseases

Fleas are the most common parasitic skin diseases found in dogs. Mange is another type of skin disease, caused by mites. Ear mites, lice, and ticks are other parasites that affect dogs. Their presence irritates the dog, leading to self-mutilation.

Hormonal Skin Diseases

If excessive or deficient, hormones produce changes in the skin and hair coat. Most hormonal problems that affect the skin produce hair loss that is evenly distributed on each side of the pet's body. The skin may be thinner than normal, and there may be changes in the colour of the skin or hair coat. When any of the hormone-producing glands malfunction, they affect other body functions besides the skin. Hormonal skin diseases in dogs can be much more serious than a 'skin problem.'



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Some cooked foods can be deficient or have a wrong balance of essential fatty acids. Signs of deficiency will initially be a dull, dry coat with fine dandruff, continuing on to hair loss and greasy skin with secondary infection.

By far the most common and frustrating skin disease in pets is Flea Allergy with secondary infection.

Talk to us about how we can rid your life of fleas!

Kind Regards,
Scott and Chris