

## DEMODECTIC MANGE

### What is Demodectic Mange?

This is a relatively common condition in dogs caused by the mite *Demodex canis* which lives in the hair follicle. The mites can only be visualized under the microscope. If this condition occurs without secondary bacterial infection, it is usually not pruritic (itchy). If a dog is infected it normally exhibits alopecia (hairloss) around the eyes, face and forelimbs although in more generalised forms the hairloss can be extensive.

There are two stages in a dog's life where they can exhibit the disease:

- The juvenile presentation is seen before 18 months old, with the majority between 6-12 months.
- The mature onset form of the disease is seen in adult dogs which are immunosuppressed (due to drug therapy or debilitating disease).

This mite is transmitted by direct contact; puppies pick up the mites in the first 2-3 days of life from their mother. This disease is not contagious to other dogs, and humans **cannot** pick up the mites. A high proportion of normal dogs may carry a low numbers of mites on their skin.

### How is it diagnosed?

Diagnosis is made from the clinical signs and distribution of skin disease and confirmed by microscopic examination of deep skin scrapings from the dog's skin to visualize mites.

### How is it treated?

Demodectic mange can be treated by a combination of the following, depending on the severity of the problem and breed of the dog. In some mild cases in young dogs this is not always necessary and clinical signs can fully resolve without treatment:

- A course of oral **IVERMECTIN** over an extended period. This drug is not safe for use in Rough Collies or Shetland Sheepdogs (Shelties).
- **AMITRAZ** bathing (dilute 4ml of **AMITRAZ** to 1000ml of cool water). Your veterinary surgeon will give you another handout with details regarding the proper use of this drug.
- Antibiotics/anti-fungals may be given if there is concurrent bacterial/fungal skin infection.

### How to prevent recurrence or spread?

Regular deep skin scrapings should be performed to check the efficacy of treatment.

The **AMITRAZ** wash (+/- oral **IVERMECTIN**) is continued for one month after your veterinary surgeon has collected 2 consecutive negative skin scrapings (2-4 weeks apart). The disease can reoccur and can be particularly difficult to treat in Sharpeis, Dobermans and other short coated breeds. As the transmission is from bitch to pups affected dogs should not be bred from and be desexed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT YOUR VET**

## 毛囊蟲症

### 什麼是毛囊蟲症？

毛囊蟲症在狗隻中頗為常見，該病由一種居於皮膚毛囊的寄生蟲(名為 *Demodex canis*) 所引致。這些寄生蟲只能在顯微鏡下看到。患上毛囊蟲症的狗隻的皮膚若沒有繼發性細菌感染的話，一般不會感到痕癢。受影響的狗隻會有脫毛的情況，通常出現在眼睛附近、面部及口唇附近及前腳等地方。較嚴重的狗隻可出現全身脫毛、皮膚紅腫及受細菌感染等

在狗隻一生中有兩階段最常病發

- 十八個月大或以下的年幼犬隻，大部份介乎六至十二個月大
- 免疫力弱的成年犬隻 (例如：正接受化療或其他藥物治療的或患上某種嚴重疾病的)

毛囊蟲可經由母犬與幼犬間直接接觸而傳播。幼犬在出生後兩至三天可從母犬身上感染到毛囊蟲。毛囊蟲症並不是傳染病，不會傳染其他狗隻，亦不會感染人類。大部份正常狗隻身上都帶有少量的毛囊蟲。

### 如何診斷

診斷方面，獸醫會特別留意皮膚受影響的位置，並進行皮膚刮皮抹片，然後在顯微鏡下檢查。由於毛囊蟲生存在毛囊中，所以進行刮皮抹片時有需要刮到皮膚較深層的位置，所以皮膚會有輕微流血的情況。

### 如何治療

部份患輕微毛囊蟲症的狗隻會不藥而癒。病情較為嚴重的狗隻則有需要用下列藥物：

- **口服藥物 Ivermectin**
  - 狗隻需要服用一段長時間
  - 不能用於牧羊犬類
- **外用藥水 Amitraz 外用藥水**
  - 用 1 公升水稀釋 4 毫升 Amitraz 藥水。
  - 你的獸醫會給你另一單張詳細講解正確使用此藥的方法。
- 若同時有細菌、真菌等感染的話，獸醫會處方抗生素等藥物

### 預防復發及傳播

定期進行刮皮抹片，以確保治療有效。Amitraz 外用藥水及口服藥物 Ivermectin 需要持續使用及餵服直至連續兩個刮皮抹片檢查下 (相隔二至四星期) 都找不到毛囊蟲後一個月為止。毛囊蟲症可以復發。沙皮犬、都柏文犬及其他短毛種狗隻尤其較難根治。由於毛囊蟲是經母體傳播，所有患有毛囊蟲症的犬隻都不宜用作繁殖用途，並應接受絕育。

欲知道更多有關詳情，可請教你的獸醫