



All About Those Mangey Mutts

In this last week of the parasite series we will move on to mites. We will focus mainly on the 2 forms of mange mites that are most commonly seen. If you want to learn more about the different types of mites that can effect dogs and cats, check out this website:

http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/integumentary_system/mange/mange_in_dogs_and_cats.html?qt=mange%20mites&alt=sh

Sarcoptic Mange

- Caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei*
- This mite is **highly contagious** to most mammals and can be transmitted to people
- Where is the mite found: they burrow **deep in the skin** and hair follicles
- How does transmission occur: **direct contact** with infected individual
 - It is possible for a person to touch an infected animal and transmit it to another animal or person
- Signs and symptoms: **INTENSE ITCHING**, skin lesions, wounds from self-trauma
 - Bacterial and yeast infections are common secondary infections
- **Diagnosing** sarcoptes: Deep skin scrape at several locations that seem to be most effected
 - This will cause bleeding if done right, so do not be alarmed by it
- **Treatment** options (**only** after being seen by your vet, and diagnosed positive for sarcoptes)
 - Antiseborrheic shampoo
 - Lime-sulfur dip
 - Fipronil products have been shown to help, but work better as a preventative
 - Selamectin
 - Milbemycin oxime or ivermectin ****NOTE**** before using this product make sure your dog is Heartworm negative (same active ingredient in heartworm preventatives)





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Demodicosis (Demodex Mange)

- Caused by *Demodex canis*
- This is a mite that is naturally present in the skin hair follicles
 - This mite *can't* be spread to people
- When does the mite become a problem: when the number of mites increases due to autoimmune deficiency, stress, and/or malnutrition
- Signs and symptoms: If the infection is mild the dog will be less itchy, but hair loss, minor skin lesions, and/or bacterial or yeast infections secondary to the mange are common
 - As the severity of infestation increases, the more itchy the pet will become and the harder it can be to get under control
- Animals under the age of 2yrs old are prone to infection and it usually spontaneously resolves on its own.
 - Older animals that become infected have a harder time getting the problem resolved
- Demodex is also diagnosed by skin scraping and plucking hairs for microscopic exam
- Treatment options
 - Benzoyl peroxide shampoo
 - Amitraz dip
 - Ivermectin**NOTE**before using this product make sure your dog is Heartworm negative (same active ingredient in heartworm preventatives)
 - Other options that help improve the skin condition include a high quality diet, Omega-3 fatty acids (such as fish oil or flaxseed oil), and topical Allerderm treatments



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Important Notes to Take Away From This:

- If left unmanaged the infection can quickly become out of control and the animal will suffer
- Make sure to follow the vet's orders to make sure the skin condition clears completely
- Don't try and diagnose the type of mange on your own – as seen with the pictures below, both types of mange can look very similar.
 - Please seek the help of your veterinarian before doing anything



←
Sarcoptes



→
Demodex