

VETERINARY ALLERGY & DERMATOLOGY INC.

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Sarcoptic Mange (Scabies)

Sarcoptic Mange is the name given to an infestation by a mite called *sarcoptes scabiei*. The mite burrows into the skin, lays eggs, the eggs hatch and continue to live in the skin burrows. This is the itchiest disease a dog can have! The mites are VERY CONTAGIOUS between dogs and the dog has to have contact with another affected dog, fox, coyote, or wolf to catch the mite. Direct contact includes grooming, kennelling, having a stray dog visit the house, or the dog rolling in a dead fox. The mite stays on the dog and needs the dog's body to live. It will bite humans, but does not prefer to live on humans. (Humans have their own species of sarcoptic mange mite that prefers to live on them).

The mites are detected on the dog by performing deep skin scrapings then observing these under the microscope. Sometimes the mites can be difficult to find especially if the owner has been bathing the dog frequently. With frequent bathing, the mites will burrow deeper into the skin and sometimes 5-10 skin scrapings are performed before the mites are found. There are certain areas on the dog that the mite prefers to live, the edges of the ears, hocks, elbows, and stomach or underside. Many times these areas will be crusty and very infected from the dog's constant scratching. If we do not find mites on your dog and are suspicious he/she may have them, we will prescribe treatment for eliminating the mites. An injection (Ivermectin) can be given once weekly and repeated for 3-4 total doses at weekly intervals. Ivermectin may also be administered orally with food. Interceptor, may also be used once weekly for 4 weeks. A topical product, Revolution, may be used every 15 days for a total of 3 doses. Bravecto, NexGard, or Simparica are oral medications for fleas and ticks that are also effective against scabies. All dogs that have come in contact with an infected dog need to be treated. Any itching the owner may have associated with the dog's mites usually goes away within 10-14 days after the animal has been cleared. Itching in humans lasting longer than this should be treated by a human dermatologist. The dog's bedding should be washed thoroughly. It is currently believed that insecticide treatment of the house is also necessary. Until the mites are resolved, affected dogs should have no contact with other dogs.