



Monthly Mash Up

Skin Deep

Skin & Fleas

The number one cause of skin disease in pets is as a result of fleas. The most basic, preventative way to help your pet's skin is through a robust and regular flea treatment. Fleas feed from the blood of your pet and need to penetrate the protective barrier of the skin to access this juicy meal. Not only do fleas carry other diseases which they can transmit to your pet, but your pet can also be allergic to a flea bite causing itchy and painful complications. Your pet feels itchy so they scratch and if they scratch enough they damage the layer of skin allowing infection to set in. This in turn opens up the possibility of more vet bills to treat the secondary skin infection so financially it makes sense to prevent the issue in the first place.



To get advice about flea products, call the team who can advise you of what is available.

Allergies

Cats and dogs can suffer from allergies in the same way humans can. If you do have an allergy you will know first-hand just how uncomfortable and irritating it can be.

Pets can have allergies to environmental irritants such as pollen, grass seeds or even to cleaning products used around the home. They can have allergies to their food and even grooming products.

Linbet's
ITCHY DOG?
5 signs of dog scratching:

- ITCHING & SCRATCHING
- RUBBING ON FURNITURE
- EXCESSIVE MOULTING
- EXCESSIVE GROOMING
- LISSING PAWS

ASK YOUR VET FOR MORE DETAILS

It's important that the skin is protected as much as possible to maintain the very important protective barrier. Any secondary skin infections caused by over-grooming or scratching as a result of the itching and discomfort an allergy can present, are painful and will need treating alongside the cause of the allergy.

If you notice that your pet is grooming more than usual or is particularly itchy, the first step is to work with the vet to find out what the cause of the allergy is. The vet will provide treatment that will ease the itching to prevent further damage to the skin alongside investigating the cause of the allergy.

Once the allergy is identified, changes to your pet's environment, food or grooming regime can usually resolve or at least massively reduce

the effects of an allergy, leaving your pet much more comfortable and happy. It can also reduce if not remove the extra cost of treating those painful and recurring skin infections!

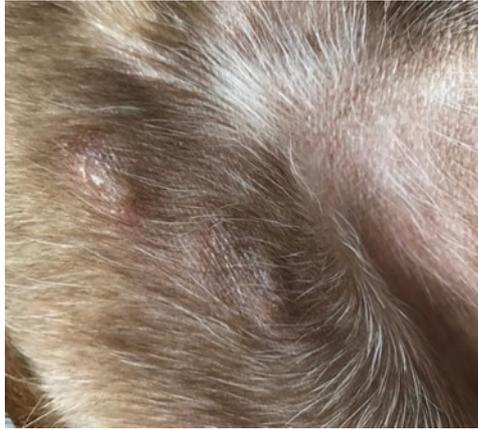
Linbet's
5 SIGNS OF POOR SKIN HEALTH IN CATS

- SCRATCHING BEHIND THE EARS
- EXCESSIVE GROOMING
- SCABBY COAT
- SCRATCHING ABOVE THE EYES
- CHEWING AT PAWS

ASK YOUR VET FOR MORE INFO

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Common Skin Issues



The development of an unusual odour, loss of fur and red patches are common symptoms of a skin allergy and secondary infection.

Staphylococcus bacteria lives naturally on the skin of dogs and humans and stays dormant on healthy skin. However, if the skin becomes irritated or injured, the bacteria can invade the area and an infection can develop leading to further irritation and discomfort.



Medication to manage the allergy and antibiotics to treat any infection is a simple and effective treatment. In the long term, managing the allergy to minimise the itching will also keep any secondary infections to a minimum.



Seborrhoea is a skin condition that can be the result of an underlying health condition such as Cushings. Seborrhoea is where the cycle of skin shedding and replacement is not working correctly (very similar to Psoriasis) both of which humans can also suffer.

The skin is red and is covered with a greasy-looking white or yellowish layer of scaly skin. It usually affects the skin areas that are rich in sebaceous glands such as the back as can be seen in the picture. There is also a distinctive odour associated with this condition which owners may notice.



Both cats and dogs can suffer from this skin condition and part of the process of treating the problem is identifying the underlying cause of the issue. As you can see from the pictures, the results of a treatment programme are quite remarkable!



Hyperkeratosis is a skin condition where excess keratin is produced causing a thickening and hardening of the skin. It particularly affects the nose and paws of dogs and cats and can lead to the skin cracking leaving it at risk of infection.

Noses and paws are VERY sensitive areas for dogs and cats so any pain and discomfort will be felt badly, particularly if the area becomes infected.

There are several cause of hyperkeratosis. It can be inherited, with Labradors and Golden Retrievers being breeds that are prone to the condition. If the condition is inherited it usually shows itself in the first year of the dog's life.

If the disease develops later in a dog's life it is usually as a result of another underlying issue, such as parasites or an inability to absorb certain nutrients or as a result of contracting Distemper (although this disease is now very rare because of vaccination).

There is no cure for hyperkeratosis. However, the condition can be managed very successfully with the goal being to reduce the symptoms and to prevent secondary infection. This usually involves softening and removing the hardened skin on the paws and nose to stop any secondary infections and to help make the areas much more comfortable for the pet.



If any of the issues described affect your pets or you have any concerns about the general health of your pet, call the team on 01772 639800 OR 01253 766352 and book an appointment.



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