

Cheyletiella

What You Should Know About Cheyletiella

Cheyletiella (sha'l e -te-el'lah) mange is transmitted when one pet comes in contact with another pet that already has the mite infestation. *Cheyletiella* mites are highly contagious, especially between animals less than 12 weeks of age.

Therefore, all animals in a household may be affected. Though it is uncommon, people may become infested when they are exposed to pets with *Cheyletiella* mange.

Signs

Typically, *Cheyletiella* mange occurs in kittens and puppies. The most common sign of *Cheyletiella* mange is moderate to severe dandruff along the animal's back. The pet may scratch a little or a lot. Intense scratching may lead to hair loss. Often, the animal's coat may feel greasy. A few animals, especially older pets, may have *Cheyletiella* mites but no skin abnormalities. Yet mites from these animals may infest other pets.

Cheyletiella

Your pet has *Cheyletiella* mites. These mites are tiny parasites that live on the skin. They cause *Cheyletiella* mange, a contagious skin disease. *Cheyletiella* infestations are treated with products that kill skin

parasites. This client education sheet will help you learn more about these infestations and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home.

Cheyletiella

Diagnostic Plan

History

Physical examination

Skin scrapings

Skin biopsy

Acetate tape impressions

Direct visualization of the parasite

Therapeutic Plan

Parasitocidal dips

Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on individual patient evaluation

including body condition

and other organ system

involvement or disease

These mites live in keratin on the skin's surface and feed on tissue fluids.

The entire life cycle is thought to occur on the host.

Diagnosis

A history of recent contact with other animals followed by the onset of dandruff, scratching, and hair loss suggest a

diagnosis of *Cheyletiella* mange. A diagnosis can be confirmed by your veterinarian when he or she finds *Cheyletiella* mites on your pet.

Your veterinarian may use a magnifying lens to look for *Cheyletiella* mites on the surface of your pet's skin. Other

commonly used diagnostic techniques include collecting dandruff by scraping the skin, applying acetate tape to the skin, or

combing dandruff scales onto a microscope slide. In these situations, your veterinarian will use a microscope to look for mites in the dandruff scales. Mites and mite eggs may occasionally be found in a pet's feces. This occurs when animals, particularly cats, ingest mites and eggs when they groom themselves. Unfortunately, mites cannot be demonstrated in all cases of *Cheyletiella* mange. If mites cannot be found, your veterinarian may think the presence of the clinical signs alone warrants treating your pet for *Cheyletiella* mange.

Treatment and Home Care

Cheyletiella mites are susceptible to most insecticides, including powders, sprays, dips, and shampoos. Treatment should be continued for several weeks to eliminate the infestation. Because of the highly contagious nature of the parasite, all animals in the household must be treated whether or not they have signs of infection. Cleaning the household hastens control of the infestation and helps prevent reinfestation. These measures include thorough cleaning and vacuuming. The household should be fogged or sprayed with products used for flea control.

Nutritional Plan

If your pet has *Cheyletiella* mange, your veterinarian may suggest a dietary change based on your pet's age and body condition, the degree of infestation and tissue damage, and the presence or absence of disease in other organs and body systems. If your pet has traumatized its skin, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Nutrition is especially important for optimal growth and proper development of the immune, or protective system, in puppies and kittens, such as those presented with *Cheyletiella* mange. Optimal nutrition should also reduce the health risks associated with feeding excess levels of nutrients such as calcium and phosphorus, which could cause skeletal problems, and excess calories, which could cause obesity. Foods formulated for optimum growth that avoid excess levels of harmful nutrients include Hill's® Science Diet® Puppy and Kitten products.

Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed. If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). However, do not add water to your cat's food. Feed only the recommended food. Be patient but firm with your pet.

Presented as an educational service by

Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: _____

Patient's Name: _____

Medication(s): _____

Nutritional Recommendation: _____

Follow-Up Appointment: _____ (Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.

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