

Female mites burrow into the skin and lay eggs in the tunnels that they form.

Larvae and nymphs develop in these tunnels.

The patient response is often severe self-inflicted trauma.



Sarcoptes

Diagnostic Plan

History
Physical examination
Skin scrapings
Skin biopsy
Therapeutic trial

Therapeutic Plan

Coat clipping
Parasitocidal dips
Antibacterials

Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on individual patient evaluation including body condition and other organ system involvement or disease

Sarcoptes

Your pet has *Sarcoptes* mites. *Sarcoptes* are tiny parasites that burrow into the outer layers of the skin. These mites cause a highly contagious skin disease known as sarcoptic mange or scabies. Sarcoptic mange is treated with insecticides. This client education sheet will help you learn more about *Sarcoptes* and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care

What You Should Know About Sarcoptes

Sarcoptes (sar-kop'tez) mites are transferred from one animal to another by direct contact. Newly infested animals begin to show clinical signs 10 days to 8 weeks after exposure. Because sarcoptic mange is highly contagious, all animals in a household may become infested. *Sarcoptes* mites can also infest people. Severe itching and red bumps on the arms and other parts of the body are typical in people with sarcoptic mange.

Signs

Intense scratching is the most common sign of sarcoptic mange in animals. Scratching leads to hair loss and self-inflicted trauma such as skin abrasions. Skin lesions are often raised and reddish and may become infected with bacteria. Thick yellow crusts and wrinkling of the skin develop over time. The skin may feel greasy. Lesions may appear anywhere on an animal's body, but occur most commonly on the elbows, ear, stomach and chest.

Some well-groomed animals with sarcoptic mange may have few or none of these clinical signs. Grooming removes some of the characteristic skin lesions.

Diagnosis

A history of recent exposure to other animals followed by the onset of skin disease characterized by intense scratching suggests a diagnosis of sarcoptic mange. Concurrent skin disease in family members supports the diagnosis.

Your veterinarian may confirm a diagnosis of sarcoptic mange by finding mites on your pet. Mites are found by scraping the skin and examining the collected material under a microscope. Mites are occasionally found in a pet's feces. This occurs when an animal ingests the mites by licking or biting infested areas of its skin. Unfortunately, mites cannot be demonstrated in all cases of sarcoptic mange. If mites cannot be found, your veterinarian may think the presence of the clinical signs along warrants treating your pet for sarcoptic mange.

Treatment and Home Care

Clipping the coats of long-haired animals facilitates treatment. Antiseborrheic shampoos help remove crusts and scales. Insecticides are used to *Sarcoptes* mites. Antibacterials may be necessary if a skin infections present. Anti-inflammatory agents may help reduce itching.

All pets in contact with an infested animal should be treated. This measure will help reduce reinfestation.

Nutritional Plan

Sarcoptic mange is a serious disease. If your pet has this problem, 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 severely traumatized its skin, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Traumatized patients may benefit from foods with increased levels of protein and energy during the recovery process. Such foods include Hill's® Prescription Diet® Canine p/d®.

After your pet's recovery is complete, your veterinarian may recommend another dietary change. Optimal nutrition should provide for a pet's needs during each stage of its life. Optimal nutrition should also reduce the health risks associated with feeding excess sodium, calcium, phosphorus, protein, and fat. Foods that avoid these harmful excesses and provide proper nutrition for each life stage include the Hill's® Science Diet® brand of pet foods for dogs and cats.

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.