



Demodecosis

Demodecosis is a form of mange caused by the mite *Demodex canis*. This mite is usually diagnosed in younger dogs. The mites crawl from the mother to the puppies in the first few days of life. It is believed there is a genetic tendency toward having demodecosis. Purebred dogs are more frequently affected.

The mites are microscopic and live in the hair follicles. This can cause hair loss and red skin. Secondary bacterial infections also occur which make the symptoms much worse. The diagnosis is made when a skin scraping reveals live mites. This form of mange is not transmissible to people.

There are 2 treatment options for generalized demodex.

- Ivermectin - Treating with Ivermectin is currently the most frequently used medication. It is a liquid medication that is given orally every day. There are certain breeds that will require extra caution or may not be able to take the drug, (collies.) This drug is not labeled for use in treating Demodex, however, it is considered an appropriate treatment option by the veterinary community for this disease.
- Milbemycin (Interceptor) - Daily administration of milbemycin is safe, effective, yet costly. It is also extra-label use.

Demodecosis is rarely life threatening. The long-term prognosis is good for most pets that go through treatment. All dogs diagnosed with demodecosis should be spayed or neutered to decrease their anxiety and also to prevent the transmission of the disease to the next generation.