



## Demodecosis

Demodex canis is a mite which infests the skin of dogs. It is normally present in very small numbers but in situations when the bodies' defence mechanisms are compromised they can multiply and cause disease.

Demodex cati (in cats) is uncommon and mainly causes lesions on the face.

This mite which looks like a microscopic crocodile, burrows deep into the hair follicle causing the hair to fall out. This is the first sign of this disease.

It can be generalised covering the whole body and in some cases even systemic, causing a sick animal with enlarged lymph nodes. It is otherwise localised, restricted to a specific small area commonly the paws and or face. It is not typically itchy.

If the mites persist, a secondary bacterial infection may result and your dog may become itchy and reddened pustules may result.

## Diagnosis

Is made on multiple deep skin scrapings and examination of the mite under microscope. This takes time and is usually an inpatient procedure but your pet should not need to be sedated so long as he/she is reasonably manageable.

## Treatment

Is long term and will require client co-operation and dedication.

At FVC our protocol is once weekly treatment for 4 weeks.

This includes an injection, a bath with a special shampoo and a dip.

After 4 weeks we will repeat the above deep skin scrapings and if clear discontinue treatment. If not the same protocol will be repeated for a further 4 weeks until multiple skin scrapings are clear, 2 weeks apart.

As the mite dies, so will the hair follicle and the hair will fall out. Your pet may therefore look worse as he/she is getting better. Your pet may also appear improved early on in treatment, but if therapy is stopped at an early stage a relapse will occur which is much more difficult to eradicate than the primary insult.

Above all if you are worried or uncertain please do not hesitate to call or come in. We will be more than happy to help.

Regards FVC team

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