

## **Mange In Dogs**

### **Mange in Dogs: Understanding and Managing the Condition**

Mange is a skin disease caused by mites that can affect dogs. There are two primary types of mange: sarcoptic and demodectic. Understanding these conditions, their symptoms, and treatment options is essential for keeping your dog healthy.



### **Sarcoptic Mange (Canine Scabies)**

#### **What is Sarcoptic Mange?**

Sarcoptic mange is caused by microscopic mites that burrow under a dog's skin and lay eggs. These mites reproduce rapidly, and the infection spreads through direct contact or shared bedding between dogs. Dogs can even catch sarcoptic mange from urban foxes, although these cases are rare.

#### **Symptoms of Sarcoptic Mange:**

- Intense itching
- Red, inflamed skin, especially in hairless areas like the belly, ears, and armpits
- Hair loss and crusty scabs
- Open sores, which may lead to secondary infections
- Swollen lymph nodes if left untreated

#### **Diagnosis and Treatment:**

Sarcoptic mange is diagnosed based on symptoms, as it can be tricky to detect mites in skin scrapings. Treatment includes medication, steroids for inflammation, and antibiotics for secondary infections. With proper treatment, dogs usually recover within a month.

### Can Humans or Other Dogs Catch It?

Yes, sarcoptic mange is contagious to humans and other dogs. While humans can experience short-lived irritation, the mites cannot complete their life cycle on us. Infected dogs should avoid contact with other pets and humans until the condition is resolved.

### Demodectic Mange (Red Mange)

#### What is Demodectic Mange?

Demodectic mange is less common and caused by mites passed from a mother dog to her puppies. Most dogs carry these mites without issue, as their immune systems keep them in check. However, when immunity is compromised, the mites can proliferate, leading to demodectic mange.



#### Symptoms:

- **Localised Demodectic Mange:** Scaly bald patches, typically on the face. Common in puppies.
- **Generalised Demodectic Mange:** Affects larger parts of the body, often due to an immune defect. Secondary infections may cause itching and odor.
- **Demodectic Pododermatitis:** Affects only the paws, making it difficult to treat and often leading to bacterial infections.

#### Treatment:

Treatment depends on the type and severity of the mange. It may involve medications, topical creams, or medicated baths. Generalised demodectic mange may require ongoing treatment if it occurs in older dogs.

#### Prevention and Cure:

While demodectic mange isn't contagious, keeping your dog healthy is crucial to prevent it. Neutering and managing stress can help boost immunity, and keeping flea and worm treatments up to date is essential. In younger dogs, the condition often resolves as their immune system matures. However, older dogs may require long-term management.



Mange, whether sarcoptic or demodectic, is treatable, and early intervention can prevent more serious complications. With the right care, most dogs can recover and lead healthy, comfortable lives.