

Hot Spots on Dogs

Hot spots, or moist dermatitis, are localised areas of skin irritation that can affect dogs and require prompt attention.

What is a Hot Spot?



A hot spot is an inflamed area of the skin that arises due to excessive licking, scratching, or biting, which leads to skin damage. When the skin barrier is compromised, bacteria can proliferate in the moist environment, exacerbating the issue. Hot spots can appear anywhere on your dog's body but are often aggravated by factors such as:

- **Moisture:** From swimming, bathing, or rain.
- **Long Hair:** Especially in hot weather, long fur can trap moisture and contribute to the problem.
- **Underlying Conditions:** Allergies, fleas, or skin infections may lead to increased itching.

Treatment of Hot Spots

Hot spots typically improve when they dry out, and your vet can provide guidance on effective treatment options, which may include:

1. **Clipping:** Shaving the hot spot and surrounding fur to promote airflow and dryness.
2. **Medicated Baths:** Using a medicated shampoo to clean the area and reduce infection.
3. **Topical Treatments:** Creams or sprays prescribed by your vet to soothe the skin and combat bacteria.
4. **Antibiotics:** In some cases, a course of antibiotics may be necessary to treat bacterial infections.
5. **Elizabethan Collar:** To prevent your dog from licking or scratching the hot spot, your vet may recommend an Elizabethan collar (cone).

Prevention of Hot Spots



Preventing hot spots involves addressing the underlying causes of itching and scratching, such as:

- **Regular Flea Treatment:** Keep your dog on a consistent flea control regimen to prevent infestations.
- **Allergy Management:** Identify and manage any allergies your dog may have, whether they are food-related or environmental.

- **Routine Grooming:** Regular grooming helps to keep your dog's coat clean and free of tangles, reducing moisture retention and irritation.



If you suspect your dog has a hot spot, it's important to consult your veterinarian for an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan. Prompt attention can prevent the condition from worsening and ensure your dog remains comfortable and healthy.