

# DERMATOLOGY WORK-UP

## SEVERITY OF ITCHING

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Minor Severe

PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 WHAT ARE THE INFECTIONS?

Perform 3-Slide Technique™ during the physical exam on multiple sites/lesions.

**Slide 1** Skin Scrape (hairplucks): \_\_\_\_\_ Positive for \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

**Slide 2** Ear Swab: \_\_\_\_\_ Positive for \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

**Slide 3** Tape Prep/Impression Smear: \_\_\_\_\_ Positive for \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Negative

- Pyoderma
- Demodex
- Dermatophytosis (if suspected, confirm with DTM culture)
- Otitis (Cocci, Yeast, Pseudomonas)
- Pododermatitis (Cocci, Yeast)
- Yeast Dermatitis

## 2 COMMON ALLERGIC SIGNS<sup>1</sup>

### A. LUMBAR DERMATITIS

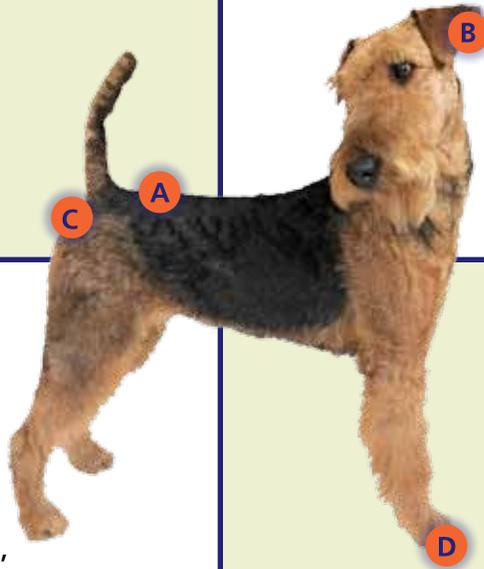
**Flea Allergy:** (very reliable pattern)

1. Caudal 1/3 of body
2. Flea comb identifying fleas or flea dirt
3. Multiple animals involved or humans affected
4. Variable response to steroids
5. Fall and Spring are often worse but can be year-round

### B. EAR-SCRATCH TEST

**Scabies:** (1-2 are highly reliable)

1. Positive pinnal pedal reflex is 80% diagnostic
2. Ear margin, distal legs, lateral elbow, ventrum
3. Variable responsive to steroids
4. Confirmed by response to treatment
5. Skin Scrapes are often falsely negative



### C. PERIANAL DERMATITIS

**Food Allergy:** (less common but 1-5 increase probability)

1. Perianal dermatitis
2. GI symptoms; more than 3 BM/day, diarrhea, vomiting, flatulence
3. Less than 1 year or older than 5 years at onset
4. Labradors and German Breeds may be predisposed
5. Variable response to steroids

### D. FOOT LICKING

**Atopic Dermatitis:**

(1-5 are highly reliable)

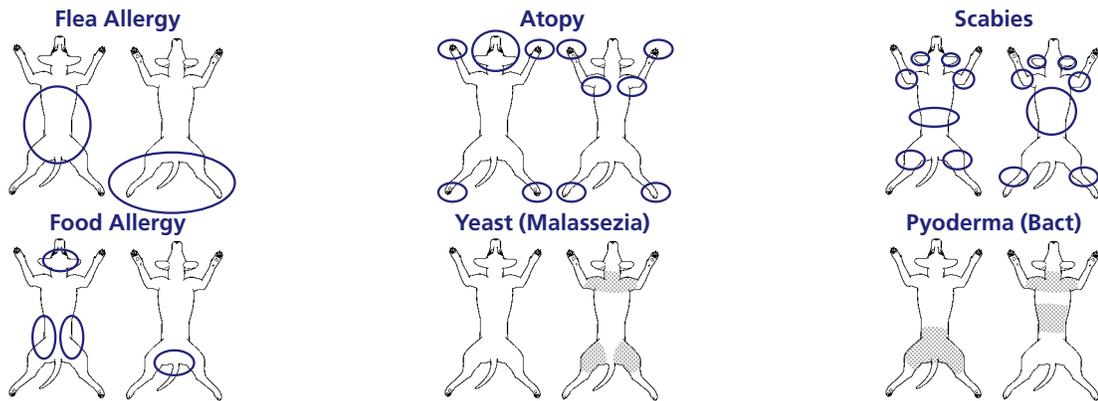
1. Started at 6 months–3 years of age
2. Front feet affected
3. Inner ear pinnae erythema
4. Lives indoors
5. Ruling out Scabies (ear margin dermatitis) and Flea Allergy (lumbar dermatitis)
6. Seasonal symptoms progressing to year-round

**Hypothyroidism:** (can mimic allergic dermatitis)

1. Recurrent infection may cause pruritus
2. Lethargy, weight gain, dry coat, hypotrichosis
3. Nonpruritic when infections are resolved

2

PATTERN RECOGNITION



3

TREAT THE ACUTE FLARES:

Cause	Recommended Treatment
Bacterial Pyoderma	
Yeast Infections	
Otitis	
Flea Infestation	
Scabies Treatment	
Steroid "Crisis" Therapy	
Topical Short-Term Steroid	

TREATMENT, CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF FUTURE FLARES:

Cause	Recommended Treatment
Atopy	Immunotherapy Allergy Vaccine
	Atopica® (Cyclosporine capsules, USP) MODIFIED
Thyroid Supplementation bid	

AVOIDING THE TRIGGERS:

Cause	Treatment	Recommended Treatment
Bacteria Yeast Pollens	<b>Regular bath</b> with an antimicrobial shampoo. <b>Wipe off affected areas</b> (feet, face, etc.) as often as possible	
Otitis	<b>Routine Ear Treatment/cleaning</b>	
Flea and Intestinal Parasites	Year-round Prevention	
Food Triggers	Restricted diet	
House Dust Mites	Dehumidify, replace dog bed, anti-allergy spray (benzyl benzoate)	

PROMOTE SKIN HEALTH AND RESTORE BARRIER FUNCTION:

Cause	Recommended Treatment
Essential Fatty Acids	
Antihistamines	
Soothing, Leave on Conditioner	

RECHECK APPOINTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>Source: Keith Hnilica, DVM, MS, DACVD.  
<sup>2</sup>Source: R.S. Mueller DipACVD, FACVSc, S.V. Bettengay BVSc, FACVSc, and M. Shiohstone BVSc, DipACVD, FACVSc: Value of the pinnal-pedal reflex in the diagnosis of canine scabies, *The Veterinary Record*, Vol 148, Issue 20, 621-623.  
<sup>3</sup>Source: The ACVD task force on canine atopic dermatitis (XIV): clinical manifestations of canine atopic dermatitis, 2001.  
<sup>4</sup>Source: Craig Griffin, DVM, DACVD.  
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