

Dermatology 101: A Pattern Approach to Clinical Dermatology

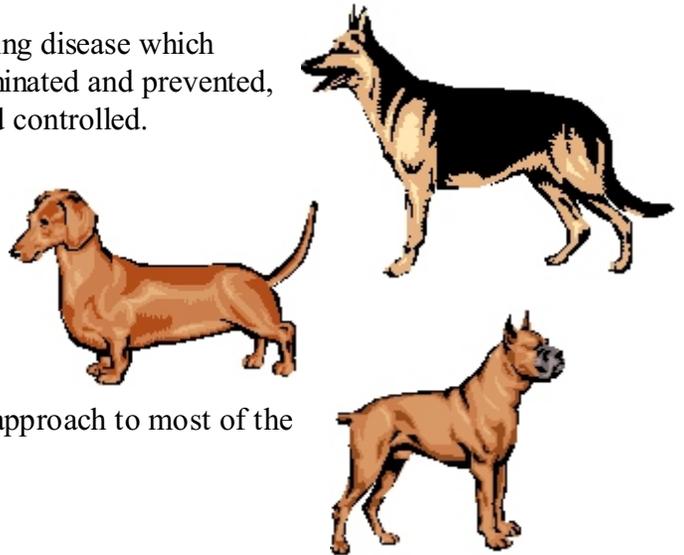
What are the infections? and Why are they there?

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Almost all dermatology patients have a primary/underlying disease which causes secondary infections. The infections must be eliminated and prevented, but will recur unless the primary disease is identified and controlled.

Most skin cases seen in practice can be successfully managed if these 2 question can be answered. Once the etiology of a patients dermatosis is known, it is a simple matter of therapeutic followthrough to resolve the problem.

The recognition of the basic patterns allows a practical approach to most of the common skin diseases.



10 Clinical Patterns

What are the infections? *(Always secondary)*

1. Folliculitis
2. Pododermatitis
3. Otitis
4. Yeast Dermatitis

Why are they there? *(The key to preventing relapse of infections)*

5. Pruritus
6. Nonpruritic Alopecia (endocrine)
7. Autoimmune Skin Disease
8. Keratinization Defects

9. Lumps, Bumps, and Draining Tracts
10. Weirdopathies

Case example: 2 year old male Labrador that has seasonal pruritus (foot licking) and a moth-eaten hair coat.

What are the Infections?

Folliculitis

pyoderma, demodex, dermatophyte

Pododermatitis

bacterial, yeast

Otitis

bacterial, yeast

Yeast dermatitis

Why are they there?

Allergies

Atopy

Food allergy

Scabies

Endocrinopathy

Hypothyroidism

Cushing's

WHAT IS MAKING MY DOG SO ITCHY?

Evaluation Form

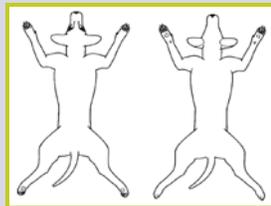
A thorough history can help us find the source of your dog's itching more quickly. Please answer the following questions to help guide the diagnostic process.

Date _____ Pet owner name _____
Name of dog _____ Age _____ Breed _____ Weight _____

PHYSICAL EVALUATION

Please check any that describe your dog and circle problem areas on the drawing.

- Hair loss
- Foul odor
- Inflammation or redness
- Itching/Scratching
- Otitis (ear infections)
- Licking/Chewing
- Skin lesions (sores)
- Changes in skin (reddish brown stains, discolorations and/or areas that are thick and leathery)
- Other _____



CIRCLE PROBLEM AREAS
(Itching, hair loss, lesions, etc.)

- Has your dog ever had ear problems? Yes No
- Does your dog have any chronic gastrointestinal signs like diarrhea or vomiting? Yes No

SEVERITY EVALUATION

On a scale of 0 to 10 rank the severity of your dog's symptoms.

SEVERITY OF CONDITION OVERALL

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
No symptoms Severe

SEVERITY OF SKIN LESIONS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
No lesions Severe

SEVERITY OF SCRATCHING/LICKING/CHEWING

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
No signs Severe

ONSET AND SEASONALITY EVALUATION

- Is this the first time your dog has experienced these symptoms? Yes No
 - If no, at what age did the symptoms first occur? <1 yr 1-3 yrs 4-7 yrs 7+ yrs
 - If no, has it occurred around the same time of year each time? Yes No
 - If no, approximate time of year symptoms occur. _____
- How long have the current symptoms been going on? _____
- Did the itch start gradually and over time become worse? Yes No
- Did the itch come on suddenly without warning? Yes No
- Was there a "rash" first or itching first? Or simultaneous? Rash first Itch first Simultaneous

PARASITE CONTROL

- Is your dog on a flea/heartworm preventative? Yes No
 - If yes, what product(s)? _____
- What months do you administer the preventative? _____
- When was the last time you administered the parasite control? _____