

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

June 2011

Skin Scrapes: More than just scratching the surface

You may have heard the term “skin scrape” when the veterinarian suspects a parasite is living on your pet. You might wonder exactly what the doctor is doing. Literally, he or she is using the blade of a scalpel and gently scraping the skin, usually until a small amount of blood is seen. The doctor is gathering skin surface debris, skin cells, and the contents of hair follicles that lie deep in the skin.

The collected sample is then placed on a microscope slide, mixed with mineral oil and examined under a microscope.

The primary focus is the positive determination of a mite. *Demodex canis* and *Sarcoptes* are the two most common mites that can cause pets’ severe skin irritation and hair loss. These parasites cannot be seen with the naked eye. A flea, although small is still about 8 times larger than a mite. And fleas will live *on the skin* whereas the mite will burrow *into the skin* or hair follicles. Therefore the scrape is going below the skin surface to find the parasite.

A skin scrape does not require the pet to be sedated and only mild and temporary discomfort is the result.

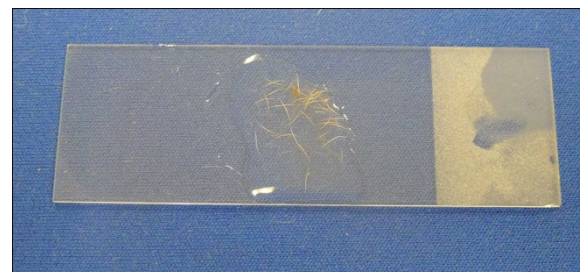
The doctor can usually determine if a parasite is present during the office visit. Although some mites such as *Sarcoptes* mites can be very difficult to find and a negative skin scraping does not completely rule out their presence. Therapy is based on the type of mite present and/or suspected but can usually be resolved readily in most cases.



A scrape on the muzzle.



Here, the doctor has collected the sample on the scalpel blade.



The scrape sample is smeared onto a glass slide. A couple of drops of mineral oil are placed on the sample and now the doctor is ready to view it under a microscope.

New Resident Joins Animal Dermatology

Animal Dermatology Clinic is pleased to announce that Dr. Tyler Udenberg will be joining the group in July.



Originally from British Columbia, Dr. Udenberg received his DVM from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Canada in 2009.

Dr. Udenberg completed both generalized and specialized internships at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

“I am looking forward to starting my residency at Animal Dermatology Clinic. Also, living in Southern California will now give me the opportunity to participate in some of my favorite activities, hiking, swimming and snowboarding.” His professional interests include food allergies, infectious and auto-immune disease.

Dr. Udenberg becomes the 24th Resident at Animal Dermatology Clinic to enter the three-year program with the goal of obtaining Diplomate status under the auspices of the America College of Veterinary Dermatology. He will be seeing cases in Marina del Rey and Pasadena.

National Bite Prevention Week: May 21-26

May 21-26 was National Dog Bite Prevention Week and although that date has passed, it's not too late to learn to understand the signs of fear and anxiety in your dog that can help avoid a dog bite.

According to veterinarian and animal behaviorist Dr. Sophia Yin, the common practice of approaching a strange dog and offering your hand as a friendly gesture isn't the safest way. The belief is that if the dog has the opportunity to smell your hand, the dog's fears will be allayed and it will then be safe to touch the dog. Not so, says Dr. Yin. Dogs, like people, have a “personal space” and it is better for the dog to approach a person when the dog has reached its comfort level.

Dr. Yin has identified some of the body language of fear in dogs and placed them in an informative downloadable poster on her website at www.drSophiaYin.com.

The associated article offers tips and suggestions when working with a fearful dog.

“For the human who is approaching, the first rule is to ask the owner first, and then ask the dog. That means, turn slightly sideways so you're not facing the dog squarely or staring at him. Then let him approach at his own rate. If he shows any combination of signs of fear or anxiety, avoid reaching out to pet him.”

Source: *Sophia Yin, DVM, MS, The Art and Science of Animal Behavior*

Man approaches an old man and a dog.

“Hey, does your dog bite?” he asked.

“No,” the old man replied.

So the first man attempts to pet the dog and dog immediately bites him.

“I thought you said your dog doesn't bite!”

Said the old man, “He doesn't. This is not my dog.”

Employee Spotlight: Andrea Spencer



Andrea is our technician in our Louisville, KY clinic where she supports Drs. Chris Reeder and Joya Griffin.

"I've been working with Animal Dermatology Clinic for almost 3 years now and I never get tired of seeing the amazing changes our patients go through. We get to work with all types of animals from horses with allergies to a hippo with an immune deficiency and the relationships you form with them are incredible."

Andrea also travels with the doctor to the satellite locations in Evansville, IN and Bowling Green, KY.

"In my free time my husband and I take our Chocolate Lab mix, Mocha, and Bullmastiff, Roman, kayaking, camping, and hiking. Though, at some point Roman may need an upgrade to a canoe! I love to be outdoors and spend time with my friends and family."

Name the famous dog...

There have been many dogs in TV, movies and advertising. Here's a little memory check to see if you can recall:

1. A cartoon dog from the future owned by George Jetson.
2. This comic strip dog was the sidekick to a curly-haired redhead. His role was played by a real dog when "Annie" played on Broadway.
3. You may have to be of a certain age to remember the RCA dog listening for "his Master's voice" on the gramophone.
4. Another old-time advertising icon sat at feet of a boy on the Cracker Jack box. What was that dog's name?
5. Taco Bell had a Chihuahua as its "spokesdog" in their popular advertising campaign. Do you know the real name? Hint: It was a female.

ANSWERS:

1. Astro
2. Sandy
3. Nipper
4. Bingo
5. Even though she played a male dog in the Taco Bell commercials, her name was Gidget.

Pet Events in Your Area

The following events are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to attending as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events.

Arcadia, CA

Saturday, June 18, 10AM - 3PM

Bassett Hound Rescue of Southern California's 14th Annual Spring Games Arcadia Park, corner of Santa Anita & Huntington Dr. Arcadia, CA 91006
Bassett Boxer Relay, Tail Wag Off, Kissing Contest, Drooling Contest and Raffle drawings. Introduction of BHRSC Rescues - success stories and fosters.
Bassett Beauty Contest - judged by children (12 & under). Marathon Napping!
Info: www.bhrsc.info

Atlanta, GA

Wednesday June 15, 7PM - 9PM

Yappy Hour at East Andrews
56 East Andrews Drive, Suite #10
Atlanta, GA
\$10 cover to benefit the German Shepherd Rescue of Georgia. Well behaved dogs welcome! Email info@gashepherd.org for more details.

Indianapolis, IN

Saturday June 26, 2PM - 8PM

Labapalooza
Mallow Run Winery in Bargersville
6964 West Whiteland Rd just off of SR 37
Free admission to benefit rescue group Love of Labs, Indiana. Vendor booths, food and musical performances.
For more information please call 317-459-3567 or email loinevents@yahoo.com

Irvine, CA

Saturday, June 11, 10AM - 5PM

5th Annual Orange County Super Pet Adoption Event
Irvine Animal Care Center
6443 Oak Canyon Rd
Irvine, CA 92618
Lots to see and do including: 800+ Adoptable Animals, Exhibitors, Silent Auction, Ask the Vet and Trainer Booths and Low-Cost Microchips.
More info at www.irvineshelter.org

Versailles, KY

Thursday June 23, 6PM - 8PM

Woodford Humane Society: Scenes of Annetes Pet Cetera Art Auction at Headley-Whitney Museum
4435 Old Franklin Pike, Lexington, KY
Preview this exclusive collection of original artworks depicting scenes from Annetes Farms, host of Freedom Fest 2011.
Bidding opens at the Sneak Preview Party and concludes at Freedom Fest July 23.
Free admission.
Call 859-873-5491 for more information or visit www.woodfordhumanesociety.org

Encinitas, CA

Sunday, June 5, 9AM - 1PM

Pet Health Expo
Encinitas City Hall parking lot
505 S. Vulcan Ave, Encinitas, CA
Pet photos, grooming, best trick contest, neuter scooter clinic and more! Vendor booth and rescue organizations with free prizes and pet wellness information.
Info: 760-633-2760 or visit www.encinitasrecreg.com