

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

March 2012

Biopsy and histopathology: A microscopic view to identifying disease



This patient has symptoms found in a variety of dermatological diseases. A biopsy revealed the answer.

One of the most important tools used at Animal Dermatology Clinic is the microscope. The doctor will use past history, current condition and a visual examination to help make a diagnosis and often they need to look a little deeper. Not just a skin scrape or a cytology (see archived issues *Derm Digest* June 2011), but looking deeper into the epidermis and dermis and lower levels of the skin.

A biopsy is surgical removal of a piece of skin tissue from a patient to characterize the presence or extent of disease. The sample is then sent to a lab where it is sliced and placed on a glass slide for viewing the layers of skin under a microscope. The findings are then reported by a pathologist and that report is then given to the doctor who performed the biopsy. *Biopsy, continued page 2*



This picture shows the area that was sutured after the biopsy sample was taken from the abdomen.

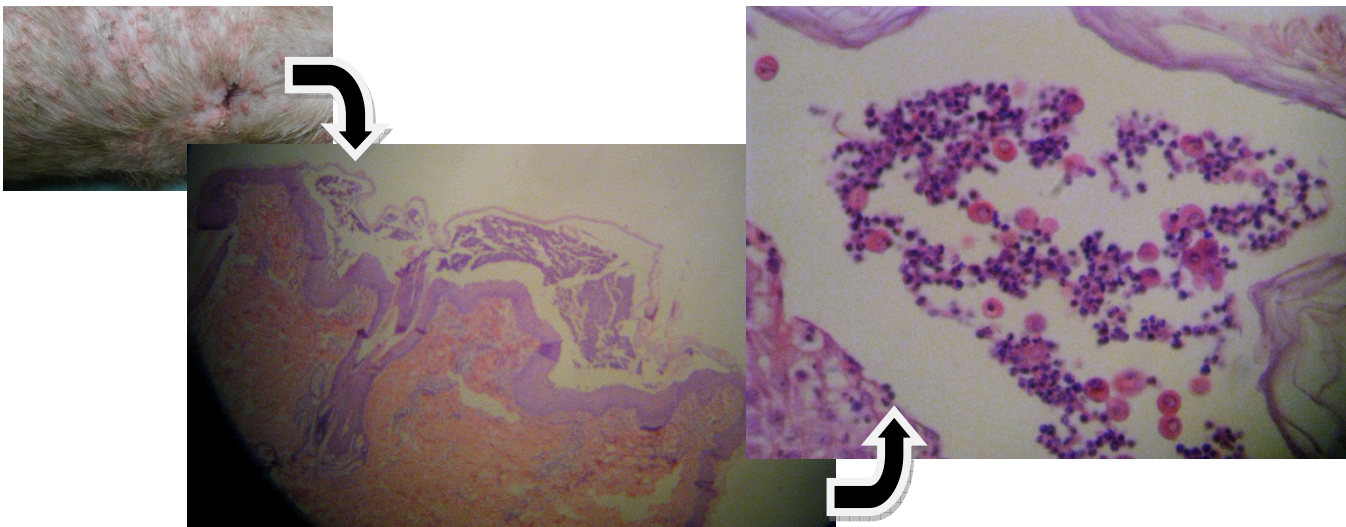
Found Puppy Seeks Assistance for Medical Treatment



This is Daisy. She is thought to be a five month old female intact pit bull mix. She was found on the streets in South Central Los Angeles by a coworker of the current owner who works for the L.A. Police Department (not animal control). The coworker could not keep Daisy, so that is how Sue came to adopt Daisy. Sue and Marie have three children and two other rescued dogs.

Initially, Daisy had just a few lesions on her back, but later the lesions started spreading and getting worse. She was treated with antibiotics but not making improvement so she was referred to Animal Dermatology Clinic. Skin biopsies showed evidence of third-degree burns with secondary infection; possibly a caustic substance (acid or hot liquid) was poured on her back. Daisy's skin has responded to some conservative management with oral medications. However, the degree of contraction caused by healing tissue and risks of serious infection make more aggressive therapy necessary to give her the best prognosis.

Animal Dermatology Clinic is working closely with Veterinary Surgical Specialists (Tustin, CA) to get Daisy the proper medical attention and care. Animal Assistance League of Orange County is accepting donations for Daisy's medical care at their website www.aaloc.com

Biopsy, *continued*

To obtain the sample, a punch biopsy tool is used. It is much like a metal tube with sharp edges to cut and remove the tissue sample (like a tiny cookie cutter). The amount of tissue removed is a little smaller than the eraser of a pencil. It is then placed in a vial with formalin solution for shipment to the laboratory.

The images above show the area where the tissue sample was removed and the microscopic view of the slide that was created.

For our patient here, the doctor suspected pemphigus foliaceus, but the symptoms exhibited also are found in patients with pyoderma or dermatophyte and other conditions, so the biopsy was ordered to help definitively diagnose the condition.

The histopathology (*histo* meaning tissue, *patho* meaning disease, *ology* meaning study of) report demonstrated the pustules with acantholytic cells which is consistent for pemphigus foliaceus.

Once it was confirmed that pemphigus was the diagnosis, a medical plan was set in motion and the patient was prescribed a course of medication. A few weeks later the disease was in remission.

While some clients are nervous and hesitant about having biopsies performed (both on themselves or their pets!), it is a simple and rapid process with very low levels of complications. In addition, appropriate and timely use of biopsy and histopathology of the skin can be the most important key in the rapid diagnosis and selecting the right therapy for individual patients to assure that the correct disease is being treated with the most appropriate therapy.

The upper left hand photo shows the clinical photo of the abdomen with pustular eruptions. Note the sutured point where the tissue sample was removed. The middle photo shows how a pustule appears in the microscope to the histopathologist and the third photo shows a close-up view of the acantholytic cells (the round pink cells in the middle of the pustule).

Source: Colleen Mendelsohn, DVM, ACVD and Rusty Muse, DVM, ACVD



Image above: Patient a few weeks later after identification of disease and treatment. Note pustules have resolved and redness diminished. (Photo: Animal Dermatology Clinic)

Louisville Doctor Welcomes New Baby

Dr. Chris Reeder and wife Susan announced the birth of their son on January 25th. Miles Elliott Reeder joins the family along with sister Reagan.

Dr. Reeder is the co-owner of Animal Dermatology Clinic, Louisville.



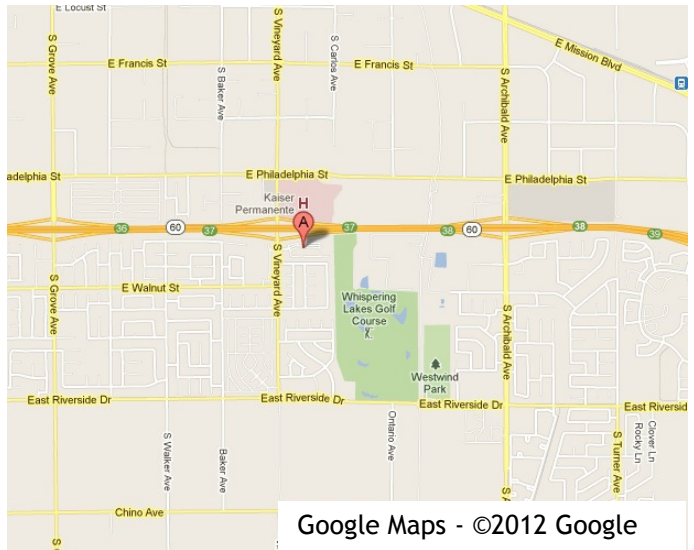
Miles Reeder resting before his next round of eating and sleeping.

“I had a linguistics professor who said that it’s man’s ability to use language that makes him the dominant species on the planet. That may be. But I think there’s one other thing that separates us from animals. We aren’t afraid of vacuum cleaners.”
 ~Jeff Stilson



Pet pictures needed! Have you submitted a picture of your pet? Go to our site at www.animaldermatology.com and upload a picture into our Pet Gallery. We would love to have your pet included in the gallery!

Upland, CA Clinic moving to nearby Ontario



Animal Dermatology Clinic in Upland is moving to a new location. We will now see cases at **California Veterinary Specialists, 2409 S. Vineyard Ave., Suite O, Ontario, CA 91761.** It is conveniently located near the 60 freeway offramp. Our contact number remains the same: 949-936-0066.

The new location is only fifteen minutes south from our previous space in Upland as we continue to offer the convenience of a satellite location to our valued clients in and around the Ontario area. From our old location, take Euclid St south to the 60 freeway, go east and exit on Vineyard.

Our scheduled days in Ontario will be Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Colleen Mendelsohn, DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Dermatology and Andrew Rosenberg, DVM, Dermatology Resident will be the doctors seeing cases in Ontario.

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.

Costa Mesa, CA
Saturday March 3 11:30am
German Shepard Adoptions

Centinela Feed
 2320 Harbor Blvd
 Costa Mesa, CA
 Come and meet some adoptable German Shepherd Dogs from German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County. Big Bake Sale too. Also accepting old or broken cell phones as a donation. Contact: Tel: 301-490-9068

Atlanta, GA
Saturday March 3 2:00pm

Meehan's Public House
 2810 Paces Ferry Rd
 Atlanta, GA
 Charity event hosted by Georgia Homeless Pets Animal Rescue with proceeds going to the rescued animals. There will be an on-going raffle, food, drinks and a lot of fun. Some of items to be raffled are a \$50 Meehans gift card, \$55 Mary Kay gift card, 10 pack doggy daycare from K-9 Coach, Hawks vs Clippers tickets and more. A Les Paul Jr. Guitar is being raffled online. For more information visit our website www.georgiahomelesspets.com. We are also on Facebook.
<http://www.georgiahomelesspets.com>

Kenton County, KY
Saturday March 24 11am - 3pm

Kenton County Animal Shelter
 1020 Mary Laidely Dr.
 Fort Mitchell, KY

Have your pet's picture taken with the Easter Bunny (photos start @ \$10). Raffles, pet and human treats will be for sale. Free gift bags will be handed out to all attendees. All proceeds will benefit Kenton Co. Animal Shelter and Friends of Kenton Paw Park. For more info please contact Kenton Animal Shelter @ 859-356-7400. Parking is free. All major credit cards will be accepted.
 For more information, please call 859-356-7400 or email info@kentonpawpark.com.

Indianapolis, IN
Wednesday March 8 6 - 9pm
Pasta for Pets: Southside Animal Shelter
Milano Inn

Join us for this very special fundraiser for Southside Animal Shelter.
 There will be a Live & Silent Auction.

Following the fundraiser there will be an Italian Buffet and live music.

Tickets can be purchased for \$35 through Paypal or by sending checks payable to Southside Animal Shelter to Aline Anderson, Atty., 7104 U.S. Hwy. 31 South, Indianapolis 46227-8537.

The mission of Southside Animal Shelter is to rescue healthy and treatable dogs and cats at risk of euthanasia, nurture and restore them to happy healthy lives in loving homes, and reserve euthanasia for those animals, in a veterinarian's professional opinion, who are in a state of terminal suffering or have been determined aggressive.

Beverly Hills, CA
Sunday March 11 11 - 4pm
Roxbury Park on Wiggly field!

Join us for a day-long pet extravaganza filled with activities for pets and humans!

- Pet Adoptions
- Pet Parade
- 40+ vendor booths available selling pet related merchandise
- Pet Related Entertainment
- Food Trucks!!

Additional costs for food and participation in some pet activities like Pet Parade, etc.
 310.285.6830

