



Otonabee Animal Hospital

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June 2014 Newsletter

Hotspots



● What are hotspots?

Acute moist dermatitis or “hot spots” are a common skin disorder in dogs. They are a localized area of skin inflammation and infection that can appear suddenly and become large red, irritated lesions in just a short time.

● What causes them?

They are the result of intense licking & chewing. The inciting cause is often an insect bite, but can be any form of irritation. Dogs that love to swim or roll in the snow are often prone to hotspots.

● What do they look like?

They are usually large, raw, inflamed and bleeding areas of skin. Redness, oozing, pain, and itchiness are hallmark signs. Hair loss is commonly present. Sometimes hair can mat over the lesion, obscuring the size and degree of the problem.



● What does treatment involve?

The underlying cause should be identified and treated, if possible. Anti-inflammatory medications and antibiotics are often used to relieve the intense itching and to combat secondary skin infection. These may be injectable drugs, oral tablets and capsules or topical preparations. The area is usually clipped and cleaned to allow the air to get to it and to facilitate applying any sprays or ointments.

● What is the prognosis?

Good with treatment. The condition usually resolves as rapidly as it developed.



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