

Pyoderma

Pyoderma is a general term for any bacterial skin infection.

Pyoderma can have many different causes, but is often caused by the overgrowth of normal skin organisms. Because these organisms are typically kept in check by a healthy immune system, pyoderma is often associated with other skin conditions like allergies, irritants, skin trauma, fungal infections, external parasites, general poor health or nutrition, or hormonal imbalances.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Red and swollen skin, sometimes with discharge
- Excessive scratching, chewing, or licking at the skin
- Hair loss
- Abnormal, unpleasant odor
- Pustules, open sores, or scabbing

- ▶ Untreated skin infections can become deep, severe, and potentially life-threatening.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications and skin products as prescribed
- Monitor your pet carefully, and schedule checkups as recommended
- Use year-round flea control products
- Follow recommendations for bathing and grooming your pet
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like swelling and discharge
 - Physical exam results
 - Laboratory skin and blood tests
- ▶ Laboratory and other tests are used to identify the primary cause of the infection.

How is it treated?

Treatment depends on the underlying cause of the infection, which may require additional medications. It often includes:

- Antibiotics
- Medicated shampoos and skin products
- Anti-inflammatory and pain medications

- ▶ Promote good skin health with routine bathing, coat care, and year-round parasite control.

