

Sarcoptic mange (scabies)

Scabies is a highly contagious skin disease caused by a microscopic mite.

Scabies mites burrow under the skin, causing itching so intense that pets often wound themselves by chewing, licking, or rubbing the infected area. These mites are spread by direct contact with infected carriers, or with infested bedding or grooming supplies.



Scabies mite

- ▶ Scabies can infest cats, dogs, and people. If your pet has scabies and you develop a skin rash or itching, contact a physician immediately.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Intense, constant scratching
- Wounds from chewing or scratching
- Red, swollen, or crusty skin
- Hair loss
- Secondary bacterial infection on affected areas



- ▶ Scabies most commonly appears on pet elbows, ear tips, faces, ankles, and chest areas, but severe cases can affect the entire body.



How is it diagnosed?

- Your pet's history
 - Clinical signs, like sores and scratching
 - Physical exam results
 - Lab tests
- ▶ Mites can be difficult to detect, even with a skin scrape test under a microscope, so treatment often begins before a scabies diagnosis is confirmed.

How is it treated?

Multiple treatments are often necessary to control scabies, and may include medicated dips, topical medications, and injections to treat itching and kill the mites.

- ▶ Some pets and breeds may experience side effects or adverse reactions to scabies treatments. Discuss your options with your veterinary team.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications as prescribed
- Separate infested pets, use separate feeding, bedding, and grooming tools, and clean these items regularly to avoid spreading the mites
- Avoid sleeping or cuddling with your pet until treatment is complete
- Monitor your pet's progress, and schedule checkups and additional skin scrapes as directed
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

