

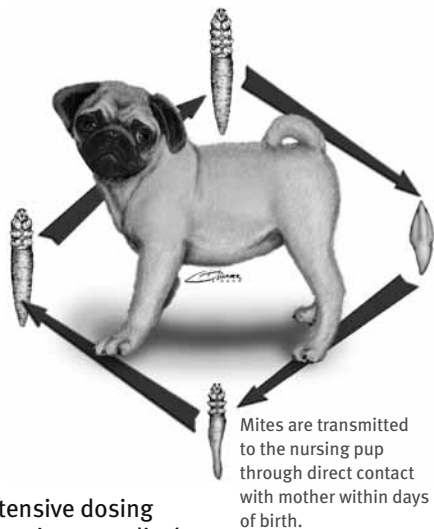
# Demodectic Mange - Ivermectin Use for Treatment

Your pet has been diagnosed with a skin disorder known as demodectic mange. It is caused by microscopic mites that live deep in the hair follicles and in oil glands. These mites are not considered to be contagious to people or other pets.

The FDA-approved method of treatment is a series of medicated dips with a product called Mitaban. Alternative treatments are also available. Your pet's doctor has carefully considered the benefits and risks associated with the possible demodectic mange treatments. In many cases, the "off-label" use of ivermectin (an oral medication) is recommended.

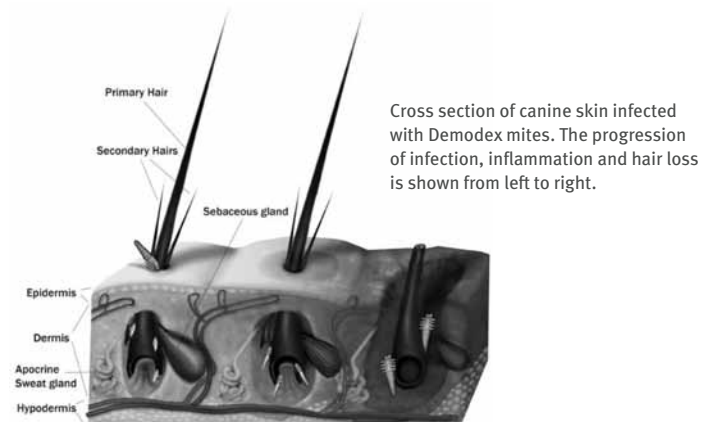
Ivermectin has been used in veterinary medicine since the mid-seventies and is the ingredient in a commonly prescribed heartworm preventative. This medication has been FDA tested and approved for use as heartworm prevention in dogs at a much lower monthly dosage than is required for the treatment of demodectic mange.

Due to expense, the manufacturers of ivermectin have not pursued testing to pass FDA guidelines for use at this higher dose. However, ivermectin has gone through extensive clinical trials. Dermatology experts have routinely used ivermectin for treatment of demodectic mange since the early 1990's and have published extensive dosing recommendations in veterinary medical journals and textbooks. When used in this way, ivermectin is used "off label," meaning in a fashion that is not indicated on the manufacturer's label.



Dogs of certain breeds are more likely to be sensitive to ivermectin at these higher levels. In this case, your veterinarian may recommend using an alternative medication called milbemycin (also off-label) to treat your pet for this skin disease. Milbemycin is generally not a first choice treatment for non-sensitive breeds because of the significant expense involved with its use. The most commonly sensitive breeds include Australian shepherds, Collies, Border collies, Shelties (Shetland sheepdogs), and occasionally, Old English sheepdogs. On rare occasions, other dogs may unpredictably show sensitivity to ivermectin. A test is available to determine if your dog carries the genetic mutation that makes dogs more susceptible to side effects.

Signs of sensitivity may include visual impairment, lack of appetite, listlessness, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, incoordination, seizures, coma, and in very rare instances death. Mild signs are reversible when the drug is discontinued. To avoid serious side effects, ivermectin should be introduced to your pet gradually over a two-week period, or they should be tested for sensitivity. **If any of these signs are observed in your pet, stop the medication immediately and call our hospital.** If we are not available or are closed, please contact the nearest veterinary emergency facility immediately.



Dosing for \_\_\_\_\_ is as follows:

**Give by mouth every 24 hrs:**

Day:	Dates: (start)	Thru:	Amount
Day 1			ml
Day 2 & 3			ml
Day 4, 5, 6			ml
Day 7, 8, 9			ml
Day 10-13			ml
Day 14+			ml

The doctor would like to re-examine your pet on:

\_\_\_\_\_

For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

