



Acral lick granuloma

Alopecia 'X'



Anal furunculosis



Discoid lupus erythematosus



Interdigital furunculosis

Purulent otitis externa



Demodicosis

Acral Lick Dermatitis

These firm alopecic and ulcerated plaques are usually found on one or more distal limbs and are caused by continuous licking complicated by a secondary bacterial infection. This can be a very frustrating condition for both owners and colleagues to manage and a thorough work up to identify the underlying cause (e.g. allergic, orthopaedic, or behavioural) is important before any therapeutic strategy is implemented.

Alopecia

Alopecia is a common clinical presentation of many different dermatological diseases. Some breeds are predisposed to the hereditary form of alopecia which affects adult dogs. It is important to rule out anuric causes of hair loss before carrying out further diagnostic investigations.

Anal Furunculosis

Anal furunculosis, or perianal fistula, is a chronic progressive inflammatory disease of the perianal tissues that most frequently affects middle-aged to older German Shepherd dogs, in which it is thought to be a genetic predisposition to the disease. Immunosuppressive medical therapy is often helpful in controlling the clinical signs of the disease although long term cure is not currently feasible.

Autoimmune Diseases

The most common autoimmune conditions seen affecting the skin of the dog include discoid lupus erythematosus, pemphigus foliaceus, uveo-dermatological syndrome and bullous disease. The diagnosis of these conditions is complex and challenging since they are infrequently encountered in clinical practice. Many of these conditions will necessitate biopsy and specialist histological examination to allow a definitive diagnosis and treatment.

Diseases of the Feet, Paws and Nails

Pododermatitis and paronychia are frequent manifestations of other underlying conditions (e.g. allergy, parasites, tumours and autoimmune diseases). In addition to a thorough examination of the patient to identify any systemic diseases, biopsy or cytology may be necessary for diagnosis.

Chronic Ear Disease

Persisting ear canal infections are a common problem in dogs and can usually be related to an underlying skin disease. Patients are investigated initially for evidence of allergic or endocrine diseases. Video otoscopy is used to examine the patient's ear under general anaesthesia. MRI scans may be needed to evaluate any involvement of the middle or inner ears.

Ectoparasites and Infectious Diseases

Many skin diseases are attributable to infestation / infection with

- parasites (e.g. demodicosis, scabies)
- bacteria (e.g. MRSA infections)
- fungi (e.g. ringworm)
- viruses (e.g. papilloma)
- protozoa (e.g. leishmaniasis)

Fungal cultures and microbiological testing are carried out on skin or secretion samples as well as serological testing for parasitic diseases.