

Endocrine (Hormonal) Diseases

Systemic problems including diseases of the liver, pancreas, gastrointestinal tract and hormone-secreting glands may give rise to skin diseases. Hyperadrenocorticism, hypothyroidism and paraneoplastic syndromes are commonly diagnosed examples of this in the dog. Hormonal assays and other tests such as ultrasound and MRI (e.g. for evaluating pituitary tumours) are routinely performed to diagnose these conditions.

Intertriginous Diseases

Intertriginous disease develops at sites (e.g. vulvar, facial, flank and tail folds) where there is frictional contact allowing accumulation of secretions (e.g. sebum, urine) that promotes the development of secondary pyoderma. Once the underlying aetiology has been addressed, many of these cases can be managed medically although some may need additional surgical intervention.



Hypothyroidism



Vulvar fold dermatitis

FELINE DERMATOLOGY

Cats too suffer from a wide range of skin diseases however their clinical manifestations are often quite distinct from those seen in the dog.

Allergic Disease

Allergic diseases including food allergies, atopic dermatitis and insect (e.g. flea) bite allergies are commonly encountered in cats. The classical presentations of this condition include facial / neck dermatitis, symmetrical alopecia, indolent ulcer, eosinophilic plaque, linear granuloma and miliary dermatitis. Both intradermal and blood (allergen-specific IgE serology) tests are suitable in cats with atopic dermatitis. The dermatologist also collaborates with our internal medicine specialists to provide help for patients with allergic respiratory disorders (feline asthma).



Feline allergic disease



Pedal calcinosis cutis associated with hyperthyroidism

Disease of the Feet: Pads and Nails

Pad and nail diseases can often be a pointer to other underlying conditions including such important diseases as feline leukaemia, lymphoma, hyperthyroidism and fungal infections. In addition to biopsy and culture of the affected tissues, investigation of systemic problems are therefore important.

Feline Symmetrical Alopecia

The aetiopathogenesis of this condition has been controversial for many years. Currently, the most likely underlying cause is thought to be an allergy and not an endocrine abnormality or a behavioural disorder.

Feline symmetrical alopecia



Endocrine and Paraneoplastic Disease

The skin changes seen in cats with endocrine disease are not common but are often characterised by bilateral, symmetrical, non-pruritic alopecia. Subtle changes in skin texture, thickness and fragility are sometimes a useful pointer to an underlying systemic disease.



Facial crusting secondary to thymoma