

Control of Itching ABBREVIATED

The number one cause of itching is **ATOPY** which causes no real damage to the skin, but keeps them itchy, red-eared and foot licking all over. It's from contact with dust-pollution on the ground.

The second cause of itching is **ALLERGY** and that involves more damage to the skin, and seems focused on the butt of the dog. It's from fleas, food, contact with pollution, and 50 other things.

Dry skin is a BIG, third component

Overbathing is a 'thing' - so switching to a hot, wet washcloth is a great, first step.

Moisturizing the skin is good, Lanolin *OIL* is nice (Amazon.com). Mink oil works equally well, but the dogs smell like taxidermy.

The coat may dry out dystrophically (due to the skin disease) and not the other way around.

There are three broad "avenues" to fix itchy dogs.

Depo and Antibiotics - Works *every* time. For a minute. Only a bit expensive. May need to be repeated monthly. Within one year, your dog will look like its aged **three** years with thinning skin, and a pot-belly. Antibiotics typically beget MORE antibiotics because we kill bad AND good bacteria. BUT IT WORKS EVERY TIME. An expedient short term fix for people who doubt that I can fix their dog.

Dermat-ALL-ogiŠts. Referral basis to specialists USUALLY (but Blue Pearl specialists have dropped that formality, they'll take you without a referral. That's bad because people go there without knowing there's easy, safe solutions and certain dermatologists won't tell you that.

At the Dermat-ALL-ogiŠt: Cases are front-loaded with half a dozen redundant and now-obsolete negative testing*, and then come back on: Apoquel (8-10% cancer rate), antibiotics, limited antigen food, antifungal shampoos, antimicrobial shampoos, Bravecto for mites, and *sometimes* Cytopoint. Cumulative first year expense: \$1,700 – \$2,300 conservatively.

If you think I'm *kidding* I can show you the last two cases [obviously *with client information redacted*]. It's cookie-cutter. "Treat everything simultaneously." BUT AGAIN, IT WORKS EVERY TIME.

*Food trials and allergy testing are done only to end up on Apoquel and/or Cytopoint ANYway. (Hyposensitization has given way to those meds, **justifiably** so) So why run the tests?

Cytopoint is emerging as a favorite of mine for people who don't want to crush allergies with the steamroller: Depo-Biotics over and over. Or go to the dermat-ALL-ogists and have everything treated simultaneously after a thousand dollars worth of testing.

That works this way:

Clear up the skin with antibiotics, antifungal / microbial baths [or sprays] plus-or-minus limited cortisone. I do NOT use Cytopoint in tandem with steroids because we need the immune system to respond to Cytopoint. So when the skin's fixed with the above, and the itching has JUST STARTED back, we go with Cytopoint before the skin backslides into open lesions and infection.