

FAQ on Demodectic Mange

How did my dog get Demodex?

All dogs have Demodex mites – they live deep in the hair follicles. They only cause problems if there are large numbers of the mites present or if the dog is immune-compromised.

What does it look like?

The mites themselves are microscopic and look like mini caterpillars. The skin of the dog can appear as anything, from scattered small bald patches that are a bit red and scaly to severe hair loss and irritation over the whole body.

Can people get Demodex?

No – only dogs can.

How is it treated?

Some cases will resolve on their own, but treatment is generally instituted to keep it from spreading. The initial treatment usually consists of two to three dips with Mitaban dip two weeks apart with skin scrapes after the second dip to look for the presence of mites. Ivermectin shots may also be given. In stubborn cases doses of oral Ivermectin or Milbemycin (Interceptor) may be given. If the skin is infected antibiotics will also be administered.

Can my dog get it again?

Yes, if the mites multiply or they have a compromised immune system.