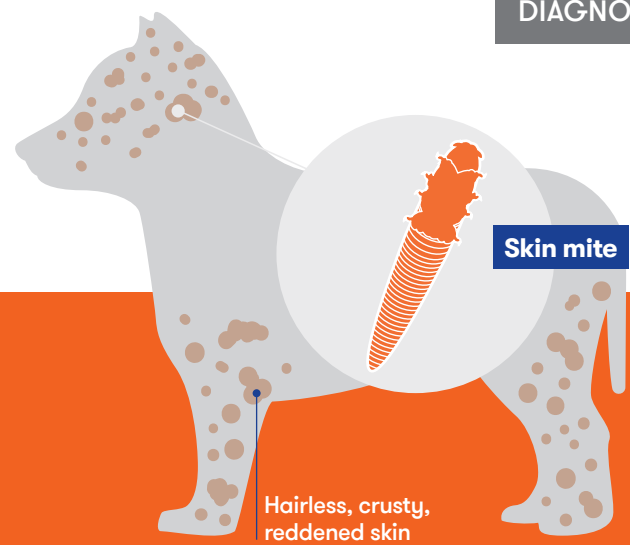


Demodectic mange

Demodectic mange is a skin disease caused by an overgrowth of microscopic mites.

The mites that cause demodectic mange normally live in small numbers on a healthy pet's skin. Mite overpopulation is often a sign of a weakened immune system, possibly caused by another underlying disease.



What does it look like?

Like many other itchy skin diseases, common signs include:

- Hair loss
- Crusty, reddened skin
- Scratching

▶ Demodectic mange often appears around the eyes, on the top of the head, and on the feet.



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like skin appearance
- Physical exam results
- Microscopic skin scrape exams

▶ Demodectic mange is commonly seen in puppies with developing immune systems, and adult dogs with an underlying medical condition that also needs to be diagnosed.



How is it treated?

Demodectic mange may require months of treatment, be subject to relapse, and need multiple treatments to be effective. Options commonly include:

- Prescription medications based on your pet's size, age, and medical history
- Antibiotics for secondary skin infections

▶ Treating demodectic mange must include treating any other underlying conditions.

How to help your pet

- Be prepared for long-term treatment
- Administer all medications in full, as prescribed, to avoid relapse
- Schedule additional appointments for skin scrape tests
- Monitor your pet's progress carefully, and schedule checkups as recommended
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

