

## **PUPPY MANGE ~ A COMMON AILMENT FOR PUPPIES**

Puppy Mange is the non-typical term for Demodex Mange. Mange? Sounds horrible right? Did you know every dog has this mite living on them? Yes, it's true. Did you know that changes in environment, a new home, new food, and several other life changes can trigger a "mange outbreak"? It's true.

While many dogs will never experience an outbreak of mange, puppies coming from shelters, rescues and breeders may be affected by this condition due to the life changes the dog will experience after adoption/purchase. Read more about this condition before getting freaked out or loosing hope!

### **OVERVIEW**

#### ***What is it?***

Demodectic mange, also known as "puppy mange" or "demodex," is a microscopic mite. All dogs raised normally by a mother possess the mite. Mites are passed from mom to pup in the first few days of life. Most dogs never suffer an outbreak from the mites. However, when conditions change in the dog's life and/or the dog's immune system is compromised, the mites may gain in number causing issues for the dog.

#### ***Symptoms***

The increased number of demodex mites on a dog can manifest themselves through a couple of symptoms that people can watch for. First, demodex may lead to patchy hair loss with a normal skin appearance underneath the spots. This is a localized form of demodex. In addition to the hair loss, the dog may experience itching (mild or a moderate amount of itching). In several cases of demodex, the hair loss can be widespread and the dog's itching may be moderate to severe.

### **TREATMENT**

Some mild cases of demodex will resolve themselves without treatment. Once a dog's immune system is able to control the number of mites, the demodex may clear up without antibiotics. Mitiban baths, probiotics, and ivermectin are commonly used to treat dogs with demodex. Internally at OPH, we treat demodex with proven methods that we have consulted with vets on. Vets will offer a range of treatment plans. Most involve mitiban dips and ivermectin. We strongly encourage the use of probiotics to help the dog's immune system.

### **FAQ**

#### ***1. Is Demodex contagious?***

Demodex mange, unlike sarcoptic mange, is not considered to be contagious. Further, isolation of dogs is not generally thought to be necessary. It is generally believed the mites are only transferable from mom to newborn pup. As in life, there are exceptions where mites can move from one dog to another. New studies are evaluating whether mites can be transferred. However, the studies still believe that as long as the dog is healthy, no outbreak occurs.

#### ***2. What dogs are most prone to outbreaks?***

Puppies and dogs who are less than 18 months old.

#### ***3. What if my vet says the dog may have to be euthanized for this condition?***

With all due respect, get a new vet. This is incredibly common and your vet should never say such a thing.

#### ***4. How often does OPH see cases of demodex?***

At least once a month. We have successfully treated dozens of cases of demodex from mild cases to severe cases. All of the dogs have gone on to live happy, healthy lives.

### **REFERENCES**

1. [http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_demodectic\\_mange.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_demodectic_mange.html)
2. <http://drbarchas.com/demodex>
3. <http://www.petcarenaturally.com/articles/mange.php>