

Hot Spots

Anything that irritates the skin and causes a dog to scratch or lick himself can start a hot spot, a localised area of skin inflammation or infection. Hot spots can appear anywhere but are most commonly found on the neck, chest or flank. Although they can appear at any time of year, they are more common in the summer months. Hot spots can grow at an incredibly fast rate – you may notice a small spot, which can quite quickly turn into a nasty, pus filled mess.

In healthy dogs, hot spots can respond very quickly to the correct homoeopathic remedy. The remedy you choose will depend on the appearance of the hot spot and the behaviour of your dog. Below is a list of some of the most commonly used remedies.



Aconite: Use for animals who are very anxious and restless during the development of hot spots.

Apis: Hot spots with angry, itchy, violent onset. The area is sensitive to touch, shiny and swollen with a red or white appearance. Tend to be thirstless.

Belladonna: Hot spots that appear very suddenly and the skin will be bright red, hot and relatively dry. The animal will appear restless and irritated and will move away from heat. Usually thirsty.

Graphites: Use if there is a sticky, honey like discharge. The itch and discharge will be worse with warmth and surrounding coat may feel greasy. The hot spot will have a cracked appearance.

Hepar sulph: The yellowish green discharge has a very strong unpleasant smell. The sore is very painful and this can make the animal quite aggressive. Heat will make the condition better.

Mercurius: Hot spots with a yellow or even greenish discharge with a yellow scab with bleeding and hair loss around the area. The lymph nodes might be swollen. These dogs will also want to move away from heat.

Rhus tox: A red and very itchy rash with a pimpled rash-like appearance and swollen hardened skin. The animal is restless and better when moving and walking about, they prefer warmth.

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Repetition of doses: As a general rule you should reduce the doses of a remedy as it starts to act and not continue once the situation has resolved.

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