

Itchy Skin

Itchy skin in dogs and cats who over groom their tummy bare, are all too commonly seen by vets. They can be complicated cases to solve, even for holistic practitioners.

When dogs and cats scratch a great deal despite every hygienic and local measure try either **Sulphur**: Hot, greedy and often rather smelly. **Arsenicum**: Chilly, nervous and always grooming themselves. **Hepar sulph**: Boils, pimples and pussy eruptions. **Sepia**: Hair loss, ringworm. **Rhus tox**: Acute, wet eczema.

When cats are over-grooming they can be reacting with indignation to stray cats coming into their territory, this annoys them intensely and they respond well to **Staphysagria**.

Silica: Pustules, boils, diseased claws and delicate skin that doesn't heal well. **Silica** in conjunction with **Kali sulph** is excellent for conditioning the coat. **Kali sulph** is indicated for sore paws with scaling of the skin. **Hepar sulph**, **Graphites** or **Silica** for cysts between the toes.



An immune system imbalance can often be accentuated in some prone breeds (Staffies, Rhodesians, Westies, Maltese, Burmese), showing as the itching of allergy or hair loss of demodectic mange, arising a few weeks after conventional vaccination. **Thuja** is the remedy to start with here for dogs and **Pulsatilla**, **Phosphorus** or **Silica** for cats.

Emotional imbalances (often from a long time ago e.g. pound, pet shop or re-homed animals) can lead you to the right remedy. **Lycopodium** for those with lack of confidence or fear aggression, **Sepia** for the worn out mothers/carers, **Nux vomica** for those with chemical overload or a history of processed food. These Nux's, and many others, will improve a lot if changed to a fresh natural diet. Fatty acid deficient diets are a common cause, and a solution is to feed more fish. Use whatever method is the easiest - raw white bait fish, tinned fish in oil or fish oil capsules, 1-6g from a cat to a large breed dog.

And let's not forget a very common cause of itching on the rump, just above the tail - fleas. And that's a topic for a whole other info email.

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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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