

Skin Ailments

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.

A few common causes are considered here:

Fatty acid deficient diets are a common cause, and the 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.



Emotional imbalances (often from a long time ago eg. pound, pet shop or re-homed animals) can lead you to the right remedy. **Lycopodium** for those with lack of confidence or fear aggression. **Sulphur** suits hot, greedy animals that are often rather smelly. **Arsenicum** for those who are chilly, nervous and constantly grooming. **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 (see my article "Natural Diet for Dogs and Cats on my website www.claremiddle.com).

We should never forget a very common cause of itching on the rump, just above the tail - fleas.

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 for dogs and **Pulsatilla**, **Phosphorus** or **Silica** for cats.

Written in conjunction with Dr Clare Middle who runs a natural therapies only veterinary practice in Balingup. Ph: 0405 009 804, www.claremiddle.com

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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