



# Skin conditions

Allergic skin disease is a common problem in dogs. It can be frustrating to manage, especially if you are unsure of the cause.

Signs of skin conditions include

- Skin that is pinker or redder than normal
- Affected dogs will itch, scratch, lick, rub or chew themselves constantly.
- Hair loss, especially around the feet, legs and tail

There are many reasons for skin conditions. These can be

- Fleas and flea allergy dermatitis
- Food allergies
- Atopy (generally an inherited disease) – an allergic reaction to substances such as dust mites and pollen
- Allergic contact dermatitis – contact allergies such as plants, carpet cleaners and other chemicals

Skin conditions can often be helped with

- Medicated shampoos such as Malaseb or oatmeal
- Anti-histamine tablets – your vet can give you a list of ones which are suitable but they can often be purchased from your local chemist
- Veterinary treatments to help control the itching and settle the skin