



**PAWS & CLAWS**  
**ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
**HOLISTIC PET CENTER**

## Skin Disease

Your pet has been diagnosed with skin disease.

A fairly common problem seen in cats & dogs, skin disease needs to be diagnosed early and treated aggressively to give your pet the quickest recovery time.

Testing must be done to properly stage and treat your pet's skin disease.

Your pet will need some or all of the following testing to determine the stage of your pet's skin disease and to determine which natural medications will be most effective. Keep in mind, the sooner the testing is done, the sooner your pet can be treated using only natural therapies without the need of conventional medications. Please note that some treatment will be started today to help your pet on its way to recovery while we are awaiting results of additional testing.

If not already done, your pet may need the following tests to complete his/her skin disease evaluation:

**Blood Profile/ Urinalysis** – These tests are done to see if another disease is present which might be affecting your pet's skin (internal disease such as allergies, thyroid, or adrenal can cause skin disease.) Also, these tests measure levels of inflammatory markers which will be used to monitor your pet's treatment. Occasionally, a blood test may need to be done to determine if allergies are causing your pet's skin disease.

**Fecal Analysis** – Various tests are done on your pet's feces to help determine the presence of parasites which can impact your pet's skin treatment. These can include a microscopic fecal analysis looking for parasites, bacteria, and yeasts; Giardia, a parasite easily transmissible to people; and a fecal culture or PCR Test looking for DNA of specific microorganisms.

**Cytology** – Microscopic analysis of your pet's skin will help us determine if bacteria or yeasts are causing your pet's skin disease.

**Culture** – A culture may be needed to determine which microorganisms are causing your pet's skin disease. A culture can also determine if ringworm is present which can be transmitted to family members.

**Skin Scraping**- This test is done to look for the presence of microscopic insects called mites which may be transmissible to other pets or human family members if present.

**Skin Biopsy**- A minor surgical procedure usually done under sedation and a local anesthetic, small pieces of affected skin are removed and examined microscopically to help us arrive at a diagnosis of your pet's skin disease.

In order to slow down/stop the progression of your pet's skin disease, please schedule your pet's skin evaluation within the next one to two weeks if not already completed during today's appointment.