Abshier-Meuth Animal Hospital
8536 N Hwy 146
Baytown, TX 77523
281-383-3254

Animal Medical Center of Baytown
4601 N Main
Baytown, TX 77521
281-422-2821

DEMODICOSIS

Demodetic Mange, or Red Mange, is a common skin condition of dogs. This skin disease is caused by a mite known as Demodex canis. This microscopic mite inhabits the hair follicles of infected dogs.

Red Mange typically manifests as a non-itchy hair loss. The underlying skin is often reddened and irritated, hence the term Red Mange. Demodectic mange can start as small, localized patches of hair loss, especially on the head, feet, and legs. The hair loss can then progress rapidly to cover the whole body. Secondary skin infections can and do occur as a result of infestation. Dogs under one year of age are most commonly affected. Stress, including heat, pregnancy, certain drugs, and concurrent diseases often play an important role in establishment of this disease. Immune system problems or the inability to fight off diseases are also the causative factors in many cases. Such cases are difficult to cure. Because Demodicosis is a hereditary condition, it is not contagious to other dogs.

The diagnosis of Demodicosis is usually reached by finding the mites after scraping the skin and observing the sample microscopically.

Treatment of demodetic mange can be quite difficult, and a small percentage of dogs do not respond. However, the majority of infected animals can be cured and/or controlled readily. Localized infections can be treated with certain ointments or medicated liquids. Due to the unavailability of dips, dogs are more commonly treated with an antiparasite drug known as Ivermectin. Ivermectin is usually used for a minimum of six weeks. At the end of the treatment period, additional skin scrapings are done to help determine if the treatment has been effective.

In rare cases, drugs are used to “boost” the immune system and help animals with problem cases fight off the mite infection.

Because many dogs appear to have immune system problems associated with the disease, it is often recommended that the affected dog be neutered, thereby preventing further perpetuation of these immune system problems to offspring.