



Female mites burrow into the skin and lay eggs in the tunnels that they form.

Larvae and nymphs develop in these tunnels.

The pet's response is often severe self-inflicted trauma.

## Sarcoptes

### Diagnostic Plan

History  
Physical examination  
Skin scrapings  
Skin biopsy  
Therapeutic trial

### Therapeutic Plan

Coat clipping  
Parasitocidal agents  
Antibacterials

### Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on individual patient evaluation including body condition and other organ system involvement or disease

## Sarcoptes

Your pet has Sarcoptes mites. Sarcoptes are tiny parasites that burrow into the outer layers of the skin. These mites cause a highly contagious skin disease known as sarcoptic mange or scabies. Sarcoptic mange is treated with insecticides. This client education sheet will help you learn more about Sarcoptes and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care team.

### What You Should Know About Sarcoptes

Sarcoptes (sar-kop'tez) mites are transferred from one animal to another by direct contact. Newly infested animals begin to show clinical signs 10 days to 8 weeks after exposure. Because sarcoptic mange is highly contagious, all animals in a household may become infested. Sarcoptes mites can also infest people. Severe itching and red bumps on the arms and other parts of the body are typical in people with sarcoptic mange.

### Signs

Intense scratching is the most common sign of sarcoptic mange in animals. Scratching leads to hair loss and self-inflicted trauma such as skin abrasions. Skin lesions are often raised and reddish and may become infected with bacteria. Thick yellow crusts and wrinkling of the skin develop over time. The skin may feel greasy. Lesions may appear anywhere on an animal's body, but occur most commonly on the elbows, ear, stomach and chest.

Some well-groomed animals with sarcoptic mange may have few or none of these clinical signs. Grooming removes some of the characteristic skin lesions.

### Diagnosis

A history of recent exposure to other animals followed by the onset of skin disease characterized by intense scratching suggests a diagnosis of sarcoptic mange. Concurrent skin disease in family members supports the diagnosis.

Your veterinarian may confirm a diagnosis of sarcoptic mange by finding mites on your pet. Mites are found by scraping the skin and examining the collected material under a microscope. Mites are occasionally found in a pet's feces. This occurs when an animal ingests the mites by licking or biting infested areas of its skin. Unfortunately, mites cannot be

demonstrated in all cases of sarcoptic mange. If mites can't be found, your veterinarian may still conclude the presence of the clinical signs alone warrants treating your pet for sarcoptic mange.

### Treatment and Home Care

Clipping the coats of long-haired animals facilitates treatment. Antiseborrheic shampoos help remove crusts and scales. Insecticides are used to Sarcoptes mites. Antibacterials may be necessary if skin infections are present. Anti-inflammatory agents may help reduce itching.

All pets in contact with an infested animal should be treated. This measure will help reduce reinfestation.

### Nutritional Plan

Sarcoptic mange is a serious disease. If your pet has this problem, your veterinarian may suggest a dietary change based on your pet's age and body condition, the degree of infestation and tissue damage and the presence or absence of disease in other organs and body systems. If your pet has severely traumatized its skin, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Traumatized patients may benefit from foods with increased levels of protein and energy during the recovery process. Such foods include Hill's® Prescription Diet® i/d® Canine and i/d® Feline Gastrointestinal Health.

After your pet's recovery is complete, your veterinarian may recommend another dietary change. Optimal nutrition should provide for a pet's needs during each stage of its life. Optimal nutrition should also reduce the health risks associated with feeding excess sodium, calcium, phosphorus, protein and fat. Foods that avoid these harmful excesses and provide proper nutrition for each life stage include Hill's® Science Diet® brand pet foods.

### Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). Feed only the recommended food. Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the success or failure of treatment depends to a large degree on strict adherence to the new food.

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## Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nutritional Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

(Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.