

DERMATOLOGY PEARLS

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PEARL OF THE MONTH: EMERGING BREED-RELATED DERMATOSES

Sebaceous adenitis in the Havanese dog

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Sebaceous adenitis is an immune mediated disease that targets and destroys the sebaceous glands. A retrospective study evaluated the clinical presentation and incidence of sebaceous adenitis in the Havanese dog at a private dermatology referral practice. Sebaceous adenitis was diagnosed in 35% (12/34) of Havanese dogs seen over a five year period. Onset of clinical signs occurred during young adulthood. Follicular casts were seen in 92% (11/12) of Havanese dogs. Other common clinical signs included alopecia and hypotrichosis. The trunk, head and ears were commonly affected with 67% (8/12) of dogs having pinnal and/or external ear canal involvement. Secondary pyoderma was seen in 42% (5/12) of dogs. Histopathology revealed absent sebaceous glands in 83% (10/12) of samples. A lymphoplasmacytic periadenexal infiltrate was seen in 92% (11/12) of samples. Treatment included multiple modalities. Cyclosporin was prescribed in 83% (10/12) of cases. Other systemic therapies included vitamin A and fatty acid supplementation. Topical therapies included antiseborrheic shampoos, antiseborrheic sprays, and oil baths. Follow up was obtained in 67% (8/12) of dogs. Follow up time ranged from two months to three years. Improvement ranged from minimal to marked with better clinical response associated with longer duration of treatment. Owners with follow up of more than one year commonly reported occasional flares of the clinical signs. This study found that sebaceous adenitis was a common diagnosis in the Havanese dog, the ears were commonly affected and that a lymphoplasmacytic periadenexal infiltrate associated with absent sebaceous glands was frequently seen on dermatohistopathologic examination.

Description and characterization of a hair coat disorder in Schipperkes

E.R. May, L.A. Frank, J.O. Noxon

A newly described symmetrical, noninflammatory hair coat disorder is being recognized in Schipperkes. Three healthy (1 male, 1 female, 1 neutered male) and 6 affected (2 male, 2 female, 1 neutered male, 1 spayed female) Schipperkes were studied. CBC, serum chemistry panel and UA results did not reveal abnormalities consistent with an endocrine disorder in any dogs. TT4, FT4ed and TSH concentrations were within normal limits for all dogs. UCCR results were increased in 1/3 healthy and 3/6 affected dogs; post-ACTH cortisol concentrations were within normal limits for all dogs; androstenedione concentrations pre- and post-ACTH were elevated in 2/3 healthy and 5/6 affected dogs; pre- and post-ACTH estradiol concentrations were increased in 3/3 healthy and 4/6 affected dogs; pre- and post ACTH progesterone concentrations were increased in 2/3 healthy and 2/6 affected dogs; pre- and post-ACTH 17-hydroxyprogesterone concentrations were only increased in one affected dog; aldosterone concentrations were within normal limits for all dogs. Histopathology samples from affected dogs were consistent with an atrophic pattern or endocrine dermatopathy. At this time there is insufficient data to recommend treatments, but this disorder appears to be similar to Alopecia X, and similar treatment options (and inconsistent treatment responses) likely apply.

Canine Models of Ichthyosis

M.L. Casal, E. Mauldin

Ichthyoses are characterized by faulty formation of the outer layer of the epidermis, the stratum corneum, with resultant scaling and include a heterogeneous group of hereditary and congenital diseases in humans. In dogs, relatively few ichthyosiform disorders have been documented and most are reported as single cases. Two forms of non-epidermolytic ichthyosis are emerging in the golden retriever and the American bulldog. The golden retriever disease is characterized by mild to moderate, generalized, nonpruritic scaling (large, loosely-adherent, soft, white to gray scales) with clinical lesions becoming apparent between 8 weeks and 2 years of age. American bulldogs typically have a more severe phenotype with lesions evident at birth or shortly thereafter. The scaling is generalized with large, light brown, plate-like, adherent scale on the ventral thorax and abdomen. The puppies may develop chronic pruritus that coincides with the onset of secondary malassezian infections. Histopathologic findings are similar in both disorders: lamellar orthokeratotic hyperkeratosis with an absence of epidermal hyperplasia and dermal inflammation. Pedigree analyses in both breeds are highly suggestive of an autosomal recessive trait.