



## **STAPHYLOCOCCAL PYODERMA : INFORMATION FOR OWNERS**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A** Staphylococcus pseudintermedius is a bacterial organism that is commonly found on the hair coat of all dogs. Given the right conditions, this bacterium can colonize the surface of the skin, the hair follicle, and occasionally the deeper tissues.
  
- B** When there are changes in the skin surface microenvironment, the bacterium can multiply and cause skin disease. Some of the precipitating factors include allergies, heat, humidity, friction, hormonal changes, and genetics.
  
- C** Clinical signs of staphylococcal pyoderma include hair loss, the presence of pustules or papules, itching and licking, redness of the skin, scaling, greasiness or waxiness, and a strong odor.
  
- D** Since the bacteria like to grow in warm, dark, moist areas, skin folds, the armpits, and the thinly haired skin of the abdomen are commonly affected.

### **DIAGNOSIS**

- A** Staphylococcal pyoderma is diagnosed by identification of the bacteria on skin cytology. In some cases, a skin biopsy may be needed to aid in the diagnosis. In other cases, a bacterial culture may be performed to confirm the presence of the bacteria and to make sure that the correct medication is prescribed.
  
- B** In every case, we attempt to identify the underlying reason for the bacterial infection in an effort to prevent a re-infection. In many cases the inciting cause is gone by the time the infection is diagnosed.

### **TREATMENT**

- A** Mild or localized cases can be treated with shampoos, rinses, sprays, or topical medications. Your pet will be treated with \_\_\_\_\_ shampoo. Leave on a minimum of 10 minutes before rinsing. \_\_\_\_\_ should be used as a final rinse. Don't rinse off. \_\_\_\_\_ will be used to treat isolated lesions.
  
- B** Generalized or more severe cases are best treated with an oral or systemic antibiotic in addition to topical therapy. The minimum treatment period is 2 weeks, although in some cases the antibiotic treatment is given for many months. Your pet will be treated with \_\_\_\_\_ to be given \_\_\_\_\_