Managing Feline Pruritus

- Cats only eat what THEY want.
- Cats are in touch with the inner barbarian.
- Cats don’t like pills.
- Cats don’t like elixirs.
- Cats don’t like water.
- Cat’s remember!

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

- What’s the problem?
- Cats are not small dogs...
- Differentials for feline pruritus.
- A dermatologist’s approach...
  - Cookbook
  - Methodical

Distinct Clinical Syndromes?

- Miliary Dermatitis
- Allergic Alopecia - Pruritus
- Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex
- "Head and Neck Pruritus"

All have similar etiologies

- Similar diagnostic strategy
- Similar therapeutics
Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Fleas
Flea
Mites
Demodex gatoi
Otodectes
Cheyletella
Notoedres
Insect Hypersensitivity
Mosquitoes
Moth, Cockroach
Fleas

Food allergy
Atopy
Contact Dermatitis
Pyoderma
Malassezia
Dermatophytosis
Drug Reaction
Paraneoplastic
Pemphigus
Mycosis Fungoides
Psychogenic
Herpes Virus
FeLV/FIV
Papilloma virus

Cat Dermatitis: Easy or NOT
1. Eliminate fleas
   Capstar qod for 30 days
2. Ring worm
3. Eliminate mites
   Revolution
   Lime sulfur
4. Food trial
5. Cyclosporine

Dr. Depo approach
Evaluating Feline Pruritus

When Steroids Go Bad - Cats
- Diabetes
- Corticoid-associated Congestive Heart Failure in 29 Cats. Smith SA, et al.
- 271 cats with CHF
- 29 with steroid administration in previous 90 days (11%)
- VIN search
  - apx >30 cats with CHF after steroid administration

Allergy Testing

Managing Feline Pruritus
- Go with the odds
  - Fleas
  - Fleas
  - Fleas
  - Demodex
  - Demodex
  - Insects/Mites
  - Food

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Evaluating Feline Pruritus
Cat Dermatitis: Easy or NOT

1. Eliminate fleas
   Capstar qod for 30 days
2. Ring worm
3. Eliminate mites
   Revolution
   Lime sulfur
4. Food trial
5. Cyclosporine

Finally, we have a NSAID for Allergies . . .

Cyclosporine and Dermatology

- Macrolactams
  - Cyclosporine, tacrolimus, pimecrolimus
- Derived from
  - Tolypocladium inflatum - cyclosporine
  - Streptomyces tsukubaensis - tacrolimus
- 1979 improved psoriasis
  - Decreased lymphocytes infiltrates
Allergic Inflammation

Novartis AH Atopica® 2003

T-cells
- inhibits cytokines
- Langerhans cells
- IgE receptor
- tissue migration
- Antigen processing

Mast Cells
- histamine release
- Keratinocytes
- IL-8 receptors

Atopica in Cats
- Currently off Label
- 5-10mg/kg (7mg/kg/day)
- Useful for many diseases
- Fewer side effects
- +/- faster response
Atopica in Cats

- Toxo risk
  - “Super absorbers”
- Titers not useful - negative more risky
- Keep inside to limited exposure
- FelV/FIV negative
- Other infections
- Safer than steroids

Idiopathic Pruritus

86% improvement by day 30
97% improvement by day 60
100% improvement by day 90

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Eosinophilic Granuloma

Idiopathic Pruritus - Cyclosporine

Idiopathic Pruritus - Cyclosporine
Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Feline Idiopathic Ulcerative Dermatosis

Eosinophilic Granuloma

Stomatitis

78% improvement by day 30
97% improvement by day 60
100% improvement by day 90
Macrolactams

Allergic Dermatitis
Discoild Lupus
Pemphigus
Bullous pemphigoid
Systemic Lupus
Sebaceous Adenitis
Granulomatous dermatoses
Psoriasis
Actinic dermatitis
Dermatomyositis

Vasculitis
Urticaria
Rheumatoid arthritis
Sweet’s syndrome
Panniculitis
Erythema multiforme
Hyperesinophilic syndrome
Eosinophilic granulomas
Scleroderma
Sericile pruritus

Poison Ivy
AIHA
Colitis
Organ Transplants
Androgenic alopecia
Voglio
Ichthyosis
Mycosis fungoides

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Fleas
Mites
Poison Ivy
AIHA
Contact Dermatitis
Pyoderma
Malassezia
Dermatophytosis
Drug Reaction
Paraneoplastic
Pemphigus
Mycosis Fungoides
Psychogenic
Herpes Virus
FeLV/FIV
Papilloma virus

Managing Feline Pruritus

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Persian Facial Dermatitis

Idiopathic Facial Dermatitis
Facial Dermatitis
Persian Seborrhea

Is it a new disease or
a fixed reaction pattern?
Persian Facial Dermatitis

What is it?

Characteristic symptoms

- Young adults
- Face
- Seborrhea
- Inflammation
- Pruritus after skin changes
- Otitis
- Lymphadenopathy

Primary or Secondary

- Genetics – reaction pattern or keratinization defect
- FeLV, FIV, Herpes virus
- Dermatophytosis
- Pyoderma
- Malassezia
- Demodex
- Allergies
  - Food

How do you treat it?

- Treat any identifiable disease
- Topical antiseborrheics
  - Degreasing shampoo
  - Benzoyl peroxide
  - Sulfur/salicylic acid
- Systemic antimicrobials
  - Antibiotics
  - Itraconazole
- If idiopathic?

Histopathology

- Inflammatory dermatitis
  - Neutrophils, eosinophils, mast cells
  - Interface
  - Spongiosis
**Allergic Inflammation**

Novartis AH Atopica® 2003

---

**Atopica in Cats**

- Currently off Label
- 5-10mg/kg (7mg/kg/day)
- Useful for many diseases
- Fewer side effects
- +/- faster response

---

**Atopica in Cats**

- Toxo risk
  - “Super absorbers”
- Titers not useful – negative more risky
- Keep inside to limited exposure
- Felv/FIV negative
- Other infections
- Safer than steroids

---

**Generics? (7 Derms say . . . )**

- Lose 10-50% efficacy
- Lose control of dispensed product
- Not FDA veterinary approved
- Only cheaper through outside pharmacies
- Not wise practice management

---

**PetsLivingLonger.com**

Keith A Hnilica DVM, MS, MBA
Diplomate ACVD
Bigdog@itchnot.com
(865) 405-4203