Evaluating Feline Pruritus

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

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

- Distinct Clinical Syndromes?
  - Miliary Dermatitis
  - Allergic Alopecia - Pruritus
  - Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex
  - “Head and Neck Pruritus”
- All have similar etiologies
  - Similar diagnostic strategy
  - Similar therapeutics

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

- Fleas
- Fleas
- Fleas
- Mites
  - Demodex gatoi
  - Otodectes
  - Cheyletiella
  - Notodres
- Insect Hypersensitivity
  - Mosquitoes
  - Moth, Cockroach
  - Flies
- Food allergy
- Atopy
- Contact Dermatitis
- Pyodermia
- Malassezia
- Dermatophytosis
- Drug Reaction
- Paraneoplastic
- Pemphigus
- Mycosis Fungoides
- Psychogenic
- Herpes Virus
- FeLV/FIV
- Papilloma virus

Miliary Dermatitis
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

Miliary dermatitis
Allergic Alopecia
Eosinophilic Granuloma

Miliary Dermatitis

Feline Pruritic Syndrome

Allergic Alopecia

Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex
Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Feline Idiopathic Ulcerative Dermatosis

Plasma Cell Pododermatitis

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

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- Food allergy
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- Contact Dermatitis
- Pyoderma
- Malassezia
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- Drug Reaction
- Paraneoplastic
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- Mycosis Fungoides
- Psychogenic
- Herpes Virus
- FeLV/FIV
- Papilloma virus
Dogs follow the rules

What to do?

Step 1

Dr. Depo approach

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

5 days post Depomedrol

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

What to do?

Steps ?
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

Managing Feline Pruritus

- Go with the odds
  - Fleas
  - Fleas
  - Fleas
  - Demodex
  - Demodex
  - Insects/Mites
  - Food

What to do?

Step 1

Eosinophilic Dermatoses

Evaluating Feline Pruritus
The Life Cycle

What are MY dogs on??

Capstar Revolution

What to do??

Step 2

Identify what can be killed.

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

- DTM Fungal Culture
- Pruritus is variable
- Dramatically different therapeutic plan
- Liability for Zoonotic disease

Hnilica itchnot.com

#18 Which flea product is best?

Bactilabs 1-800-227-7300
What to do???

Step 3

Evaluating Feline Pruritus
- Skin Scrapes
- Tape prep
- Flea comb
- Vacuum

Feline Demodex
- Demodex cati
  - Immunosuppression
  - FeLV or FIV or steroids
  - "Traditional Demodicosis"
- Demodex gatoi
  - Contagious
  - Pruritic
  - Superficial dweller

Demodex Gatoi
- Feline Demodex gatoi
  - Clusters >> "Hot spots"
  - Multiple cats in a home
  - Can be difficult to find on scrapes
- Easily treated
  - Lime sulfur dips
  - Weekly for 6-10 weeks
  - All cats in home

Demodex Gatoi
- Lym Dyp trial
  - Treat with 3 weekly dips
Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Demodex Gatoi
- Mites
  - Lime sulfur dip
  - Weekly for 6-10 weeks

Lime sulfur dip
The Fecalyzer®

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Feline Demodex gatoi
- Clusters >> "Hot spots"
- Multiple cats in a home
- Can be difficult to find on scrapes
- Easily treated
  - Lime sulfur dips
    - Dip Trial - weekly for 3 weeks
    - Weekly for 6-10 weeks
    - All cats in home

What to do???
Step 4

Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Feline allergic Dermatitis
- 70% flea allergic
- 17% food allergic
  - Variable response to steroids
- 13% atopic
  - Good response to steroids


Evaluating Feline Pruritus

Feline Food Allergy
- Year round pruritus
- Any of the 3 patterns
- Variable response to steroids
- 10-30% with concurrent GI symptoms
- Common offending proteins
  - Dairy, fish, beef, pork, chicken, rabbit, horse, lamb, eggs, clams, "commercial diets"
Managing Feline Pruritus

- **Diagnosing food allergy**
  - 10 week food trial
  - Home cooked
    - Cooked meat
    - Potato/rice
  - Canned food
    - Innovative Veterinary Diets (IVD)
    - Green pea & duck/rabbit
    - Hills ZD???

No hunting!

Managing Feline Pruritus

- **Food**
  - Canned
  - Blend it
    - Rabbit/duck
    - Potato
    - Real meat

- Cats can commit foodacide.

What to do?????

**Step 5**

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

Idiopathic Pruritus - Cyclosporine
Eosinophilic Granuloma

Stomatitis

What to do?????

Step 6
Evaluating Feline Pruritus

- Biopsies
  - At least 3 samples
  - Sent to a dermatopathologist
  - www.UTSkinVet.org

**Mr. Boo**

- 11 year old, MC, domestic short hair
- Hypertension w/ II/VI systolic murmur
  - Amlodipine
  - Atenolol
- 2 weeks duration
  - Alopecia
  - Intense pruritus

Mr. Boo

- Amlodipine

Mr. Boo

- Intense pruritus

Mr. Boo

- Atenolol
"Mr. Boo"

- Ultrasound revealed multiple nodules in the liver and spleen.
- Cytology of aspirates: carcinoma
- Owner elected euthanasia.

"Mr. Boo"

- Learning issue
- Time reveals all.

If the world didn't suck we would all fall off.

"Daisy"

- 3 year old, FS, domestic short hair
- 2 year history of progressive alopecia
- Licks all the time
- Poor response to DepoMedrol

"Daisy"

- Cyclosporine
  - 25mg/day on empty stomach
  - 6-8 weeks then taper

PetsLivingLonger.com
Pet Wellness CENTER

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"Daisy"

- Learning issue
- Never give up.