# SEVERITY OF ITCHING

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Minor | Severe

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**DERMATOLOGY WORK-UP**

## WHAT ARE THE INFECTIONS?
Perform 3-Slide Technique™ during the physical exam.

**Slide 1** Skin Scrape: ___ Positive for __________________________ / ___ Negative

**Slide 2** Ear Swab: ___ Positive for __________________________ / ___ Negative

**Slide 3** Tape Prep/Impression Smear: ___ Positive for __________________________ / ___ Negative

- Pyoderma
- Demodex
- Dermatophytosis
- Otitis (Cocci, yeast, pseudomonas)
- Pododermatitis (Cocci, yeast)
- Yeast Dermatitis

## COMMON ALLERGIC SIGNS

### A. LUMBAR DERMATITIS
- Dermatitis on the lower back is usually indicative of a flea allergy
- Supports positive finding of fleas/flea dirt

### B. EAR SCRATCH TEST
- Positive pinnal-pedal reflex: a reflexive rear-leg itch induced by scratching the ear tip is 80% diagnostic of scabies²
- Confirm with 3-Slide Technique™

### C. PERIANAL DERMATITIS
- Usually related to food allergy
- Should be suspected if age of onset is less than one year or older than five years
- Particularly in Labradors and German breeds

### D. FOOT LICKING
- 85% of the time foot-licking dogs are atopic (pollen allergy, house dust mite allergy)¹
- 15% will have food allergy
# TREATMENT OPTIONS

## Treat the Infections
- Antibiotics
- Antifungals
- Shampoos

## Treat the Obvious Conditions
- Lumbar Dermatitis (Flea allergy/flea control)
- Perianal Dermatitis (Food allergy/diet change)
- Foot Licking (Atopic dermatitis/Atopy/Atopica or allergy testing)
- Ear-Scratch Response (+Scabies/scabicidal treatment)

### Short-Term Control: Symptomatic Relief Only
- Steroids (Dex Na Phos)
- Antihistamines
- EFA
- Anti-Itch Conditioner
- Sleep Promoter

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### LOOK FOR THE OBVIOUS

- Flea Allergy (Lumbar dermatitis)
- Scabies (Positive pinnal-pedal reflex)
- Perianal Dermatitis (Food allergy)
- Foot Licking (Atopic dermatitis)

*Note: 15% of foot-licking dogs will have a food allergy or mixed (atopy and food allergy).*

**COMMENTS:**

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**RECHECK TIME:**

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1Source: Keith Hnilica, DVM, MS, DACVD.
3Source: The ACVD task force on canine atopic dermatitis (XIV): clinical manifestations of canine atopic dermatitis, 2001
4Source: Craig Griffin, DVM, DACVD
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