

## Hot spots

A hot spot is a localized area of infected and inflamed skin. This results when the surface of the skin is damaged and bacteria overrun the skins defenses.

### Causes:

Anything that irritates the skin and results in your pet chewing or scratching at the site. Fleas are a common cause of hot spots, along with other insect bites, excess skin moisture, heavy/dense coats, matted hair etc. As your pet chews at the irritated area, saliva accumulates under the hair. As the animal continues to traumatize the skin, This creates a moist environment for the infection to grow. They often occur around the face (from scratching at the ears) or around the tail base.

### Treatment:

The area will firstly need to be shaved to allow the air to get to the area and we can then also assess how large the infected area is. We then clean the area and place an antibiotic cream to the site.

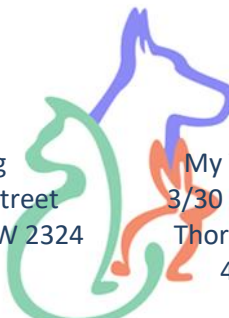
Treatment will vary depending on the severity of the hot spot. Your pet will be given oral antibiotics to be given at home. You may also be given anti-inflammatory drugs, or topical medications.

Your pet will most likely be fitted with an e-collar, this is to prevent your pet causing further trauma to the area and re-infecting the skin.

### How often will this happen?

Some pets may get one or two hot spots and never have another one, others may have them frequently. You can help prevent hot spots from reoccurring by applying flea treatment regularly. Some dogs may also require regular grooming.

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