

Demodecosis (Mange)



WHAT IS DEMODEX?

Demodex are species of mites that normally live on the skin of dogs and cats in the hair follicles and sebaceous glands.

The 3 most common species of Demodex are:

- *Demodex canis*
- *Demodex gato* (affects cats more frequently)
- *Demodex injai* (long-bodied)



WHAT CAUSES MANGE?

Localised demodecosis is most common in young dogs around the **face** and **paws**. Due to an immature immune system, the mites over-multiply and cause a **focal area of hair loss**.



Generalised demodecosis is caused by immune compromise causing mites to proliferate in multiple sites over the body. This causes **multiple sites of hair loss**.

D. injai proliferation is common in terrier breed dogs and leads to **greasiness of the coat** as the mites multiply in the **sebaceous glands** of the skin (glands that produce the oils).

Demodecosis is **NOT ITCHY** which differentiates it from sarcoptic mange (**Scabies**) which is very itchy.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis is via **skin scrape** and microscopic examination. (*D. injai* may require skin biopsy for diagnosis)



TREATMENT

Localised demodecosis is usually self-limiting and will resolve on its own without treatment. Topical acaricidals (parasite treatments) may be prescribed.

Generalised demodecosis requires treatment with **doramectin, ivermectin, NexGard or Bravecto** usually for 8-10 weeks until **2 negative skin scrapes** are achieved.