

A big thank you to all of 4 Paws Vet's and Pets in the City's wonderful clients who purchased a cupcake from us during the RSPCA cupcake day. We raised nearly \$200!

All about Hot Spots!

A 'Hot spot' or 'Acute Moist Dermatitis' is a localised area of skin inflammation and infection. Hot spots can occur in dogs and cats; however we do see them much more frequently in dogs.

Hot spots are very common skin lesions usually caused by an animal scratching, biting or licking at one particular spot. This itchiness can be caused by:

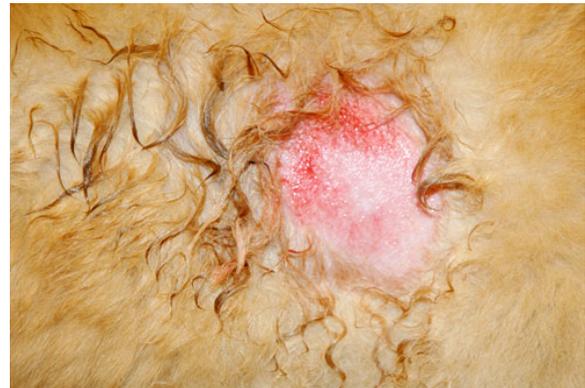
- External parasites e.g fleas
- Existing skin wounds
- Existing skin surface infections with bacteria or yeast
- Skin allergies (due to underlying food allergies, contact allergies and inhalant allergies)
- Moist skin (e.g. after a bath)
- Stress or boredom
- Hormone diseases

'Hot spots' look like an area of skin where there is redness, itchiness, broken or irritated skin, oozing and pain. There is often loss of hair to the region, however many lesions may be covered by the animal's hair coat, therefore disguising the full extent of the problem.

'Hot spots' can develop very quickly and hence progress to larger, nastier lesions in just a matter of hours. Because of this, it is best to contact your veterinarian promptly if you suspect your pet may have a 'hot spot'.

Treatment for 'hot spot's' may include:

- Clipping of the area: this is to remove the overlying hair, allowing air to access the lesion and help dry it out.
- Cleaning and disinfecting the area with an appropriate skin cleanser
- Medications such as antibiotic tablets/injections, medicated creams and shampoos may be prescribed depending on the individual case.
- Elizabethan collars are also very useful in preventing your dog from further traumatising the hot spot by licking and chewing.
- Rest and a clean environment so that the lesion stays clean and dry.



You can help prevent your animal getting 'hot spots' by treating regularly for fleas and other external parasites; treating other skin conditions and reducing boredom and stress by providing an enriched environment for them.

Most importantly, however, prevention is the key. It is also important to seek prompt veterinary attention to avoid the problem escalating from one small lesion to a huge messy skin problem that can be extremely painful and distressing for your much loved pet!

Park Etiquette

At the park we'd ideally like to avoid any forms of dog-to-dog aggression. Teaching your puppy how to socialise and behave with other dogs is the key to achieving this. Puppy pre-school provides an environment early on in a puppy's life where they learn how to play appropriately. They will meet dogs of all different shapes and sizes, similar to what they will encounter at the park. They also learn to get used to other people and most especially children.

If your dog is aggressive towards other dogs, never allow it off the lead to terrorise other dogs. Instead, seek help through your vet clinic or veterinary behavioural specialist. Initially, the park and contact with other dogs should be avoided. Ensure however that adequate stimulation is provided at home in the form of toys, scattered food or a treat ball.

SAVE A LIFE!

The Animal Welfare League NSW needs your help to find forever homes for **200 abandoned cats and dogs**.

To adopt, donate or volunteer visit awlnsw.com.au

Here are a few tips to help you acclimatise your dog to the park:

- teach your dog basic skills - to sit and stay on command – use rewards to enforce good behaviour
- start to desensitise your dog to other dogs by walking another dog on a lead from afar – treat good behaviour
- Progressively move the other dog closer to your dog, always treating good behaviour
- Harnesses and head collars are useful to get good control of your dog's head

Your dog's anxiety should gradually decrease over time and hopefully, after adequate introductions to other dogs, you will be able to re-introduce your dog to the joys of the park.

PETS IN THE CITY NEWS

SPRING CLEAN YOUR PET AND HOME!

It's that time of year again when all of the shedding breeds start losing buckets of hair.

Talk to us about the latest wonder products for reducing the spring fur storm both on your pet and around the home.

Why don't you freshen things up with our fantastic selection of all natural, essential oil based shampoos, colognes and deodorisers.

WALKING WISDOM

We should all make the most of the warmer weather and longer days by getting out and about with our pets, but walking should be a joy, not a struggle.

If your pooch leaves a little to be desired when it comes to walking manners, you should come in and check out our comprehensive range of training aids.

We have every type of halter, collar, lead and harness to solve every type of problem. We can help!