

- Dogs—care

Adjunctive at home management for itchy dog

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REGULAR bathing with medicated shampoos will provide the following benefits for your dog:

- removes allergens that may be contributing to the itch;
- soothes the skin; and
- treats secondary skin infections which contribute to itching.

Bathing should be done daily for three to five days in dogs with acute skin flare ups and secondary infections.

After this, dogs with ongoing skin allergies should be bathed weekly to fortnightly to maintain healthy skin.

When bathing your dog with a medicated shampoo:

- scrub in thoroughly to ensure all affected areas of skin are well covered;
- leave shampoo in contact with skin for at least 10 to 15 minutes before rinsing thoroughly; and
- always follow up with a leave in conditioner – you don't need much.

Moisturising

Daily moisturising can help soothe the skin as well as provide a protective barrier.

This is best done on more hairless areas such as between toes, under the belly and armpits.

with

Ovens and Kiewa Veterinary Hospital

Human moisturisers such as QV cream or Sorbolene are fine to use, just ensure that they do not have any added fragrances or other additives in them.

Rub it in, particularly over affected areas of skin, and job done.

Medicated creams

In some dogs the use of medicated creams from your veterinarian on affected areas up to twice daily can be enough to settle the itch and avoid systemic medications.

For dogs that have a suspect allergy to something in the environment, giving them a wipe down after being outside can help to remove allergens from their coat and skin.

Use a soft, damp towel or t-shirt to wipe over your dog before they come inside.

The addition of omega 3 and 6 can help support healthy skin barrier.

These options are not necessarily an alternative to medications, however they can help reduce the frequency of requiring medication, and the dose of medication required.