



## HOW NATURALPET.HEALTH CAN HELP YOUR ITCHY DOG

### DIAGNOSTICS NEEDED FOR AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS

- A comprehensive examination of your pet's skin
- Blood panel—because sometimes skin problems are only a symptom of underlying disease
- Skin scrapings to look at the cells and organisms within the layers of the skin
- Skin culture to look for bacterial or fungal causes of your pet's itch
- Biopsies of damaged skin look for more serious medical problems
- Thyroid tests to make sure your pet's itch is not due to thyroid problems.
- Allergy testing— ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG DOGS

### INJECTABLE DRUGS

- Antibiotics— short-acting or repository
- Steroids— short -acting or repository
- CADI injections for dogs with atopy

### ORAL DRUGS

- To stop itch
  - Antihistamines: Zyrtec 1 mg/ 2 lb BW once daily; Benadryl 1 mg/lb BW twice daily
  - Apoquel to stop itch without side effects— **the best choice for most pets**
  - Prednisone— the old standby
  - Atopica, the most potent immune suppressant
- Antibiotics, because as pets scratch or chew they create skin infections for themselves
- Oral Immunotherapy

### TOPICAL MEDICATIONS

- Shampoos— soothing aloe vera or medicated
- Ointments — many contain a combination of steroid for itch, antibiotic and antifungal agents.

### FLEA CONTROL— A true necessity in many areas of the country!

- Bravecto— 3 mo prevention of fleas and ticks
- NexGard— 4 wks prevention of fleas and ticks
- Trifexis— will prevent fleas and fatal heartworm disease for one month
- Topical Revolution for pets with dietary allergies

### INTEGRATIVE CARE

- Curcumin** 50 mg per lb body weight per day to reduce inflammation
- Fish Oil** to provide 50mg of Omega 3 Fatty Acids per lb body weight per day
- Probiotics like Visbiome or ProViable DC** — **just make sure they don't contain meat flavorings.**

### HOME CARE

- Avoid grassy areas; walk only on hard surfaces if fleas or grass allergies are an issue.
- Wipe down skin/haircoat with moist rag after outdoor exercise