

from our postbag

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Q *What preparations are suitable for animals with skin allergies?*

A Most skin allergies lead to areas of Dermatitis which we usually refer to as eczema. It is always important to first identify the cause of the allergy. This may be from something the animal has eaten or it may be initiated by direct contact with the skin. Whatever the cause the end result will be an inflammatory type skin reaction. This irritates the animal leading to rubbing, scratching and licking of the areas. When trying to help this type of condition first remove the cause, if known. Gently wash any discharges and accumulated debris from this area with dilute Aloe Vera Soap. Dry the area. Then spray lightly with Aloe Veterinary Spray. Follow this with reasonable amounts of Aloe Vera Gelly rubbed gently into the area. Repeat this Veterinary Formula and Gelly combination 4-6 times daily. Too much washing can make the condition worse. As the eczema improves, the daily applications can be reduced to twice daily. If the area is particularly infected change to the Aloe Propolis Creme. Because this allergy is a result of a hypersensitivity reaction where the immune system has become over-active, it is important to give Aloe Vera Gel orally to their animals either directly by mouth or in the food. Some animals have also shown improvements when Bee Pollen tablets have been added to their diet.

Q *Which preparations are suitable for dogs with arthritis?*

A Aloe Vera Gel - Start on 5mls Gel in the diet and work up to 60mls per day over a 10 day period. This would be suitable for a dog of a Labrador's size. For smaller dogs such as a Yorkie I would give up to 20mls per day. Arctic Sea - Most dogs would need at least 1 capsule per day and the larger breeds require two per day. Aloe Heat Lotion - Rub this into the skin over the joint 3-4 times daily. It is very important that it is applied directly onto the skin which can be achieved by either folding the hair back or clipping it off.

Q *Can Aloe Vera be used for Sarcoids in horses?*

A In general I have found very few instances where tumours have consistently responded to internal and external use of Aloe Vera preparations. Sarcoids fall into one of the followings groups 1) Wart like - with or without a stalk 2) Proud flush like - with or without a stalk 3) A mixture of the above two 4) Flat thickened nodular type. No hair. I have treated types 1 to 3 with oral and topical Aloe Vera preparations for periods exceeding one year with very little

success. Type 4 has however consistently responded to topical Veterinary Formula and Gelly with Aloe Gel added to the diet. However I have improved the healing and non-reoccurring rates with types 1 to 3 by the oral and topical use of Aloe Vera following conventional veterinary treatments such as surgical removal, cryosurgery, BCG and caustic topical chemotherapy.

Q *Can Aloe Vera be used in cases of Feline Acne?*

A This is quite a common condition of cats seen as loss of hair, follicular papules with a localised furunculosis (spots) particularly around the lips and chin. Best results are achieved by cleaning off the area with dilute Aloe Soap. Dry gently then apply Veterinary Formula followed by Aloe Gelly. Rub these well in and repeat 3-4 times daily. This initial treatment may stimulate the "healing crisis" which should settle down after 5 days or so. If secondary infection is a particular problem, then change from the Gelly to the Propolis Creme. Adding 20mls Aloe Vera Gel to the diet daily also proves beneficial. This can be reduced to 10mls once the acne is under control.

Q *My dog has anal gland problems - are there any preparations which may help with this condition?*

A Impaction of the sacs on either side of the anus (anal glands) is quite a common reoccurring problem particularly in dogs; it is also seen in cats but not so frequently. Domestication and artificial diets are the main contributory causes to this complaint. Attention to diet is therefore very important when trying to prevent the reoccurrence of this problem. Try to encourage an active bowel with a well formed motion. A well balanced diet with plenty of fibre helps, as does regular exercise. If the dog suffers from constipation or diarrhoea this will exacerbate the condition. Adding up to 60mls of Aloe Vera Gel to the dog's diet daily may help. This can be built up from 5mls over a 10 day period. If symptoms have already developed then clean off the area with dilute Aloe Soap and dry gently. Then spray lightly with Aloe Veterinary spray and rub in Gelly. Do not over wash the area and apply the Aloe Veterinary Formula and Gelly 3-4 times daily. It can also prove beneficial to add 1-2 Bee Propolis tablets to the diet daily. If the main presenting symptoms of licking around the area and rubbing their bottoms along the grounds persists, then consult your Veterinary Surgeon. The Vet will often digitally express the glands.