

## Infectious Disease Protocol: Sarcoptic Mange

### Basic Disease Information:

- **ZOONOTIC**
- **Burrowing mite causing persistent scratching and crusting especially around the ears and elbows**
- Transmitted through direct contact, fomite transmission possible but uncommon
- Dogs may transiently infect cats
- **Incubation Period:** Dogs may show signs within a few days of infection
- **Shedding Period:** Live mites may remain after resolution of pruritis- continue treatment for 2 weeks past remission, at least 4-6 weeks
- Mites live off host up to 6 days at room temperature, longer (up to 21 days) in moist, cool environments
- **Carrier state:** YES. All dogs in prolonged direct contact (house or kennel mates) with affected dogs should be treated, as asymptomatic carriers exist

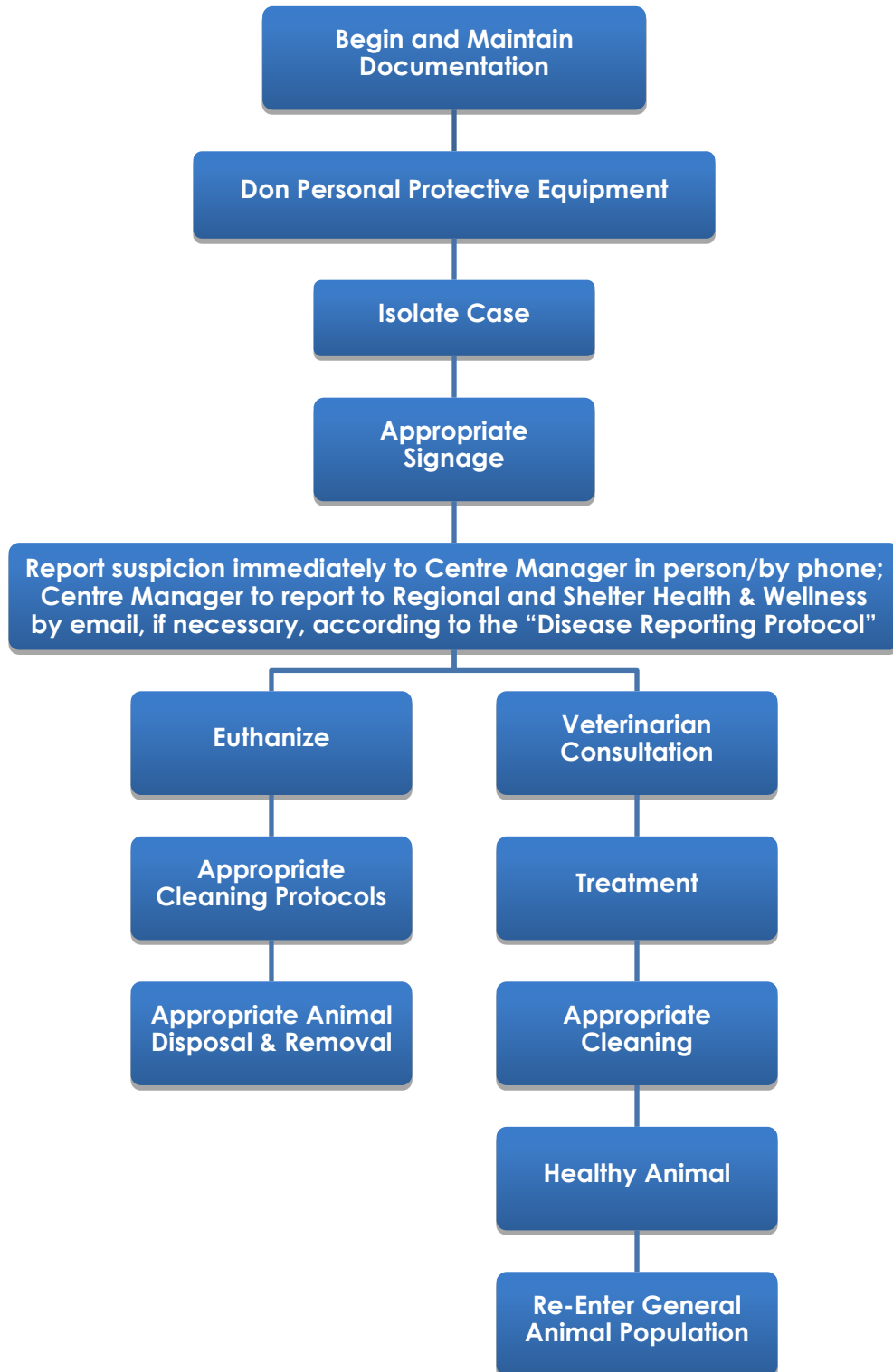
### General Policy:

Treatment of Sarcoptic Mange infected animals should only be undertaken in an animal centre if sufficient facilities exist to effectively separate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. The treatment plan will be determined by the VCPR (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship) between the facility and their regular veterinarian.

### If you see or suspect the following signs:

- Intense scratching
- Rash
- Reddened, crusty skin
- Hair loss typically affecting the ears, face, neck, feet, elbows, legs, and abdomen

### Follow these next steps:



**Diagnosis:**

**When to test:** Any animal exhibiting characteristic clinical signs

**Who performs the test:** External diagnostic facility

**How to test:** Skin Scraping- a definitive diagnosis is made by demonstration of mites on skin scraping. However, negative scrapings are common in dogs. Multiple scrapings should be performed, and sarcoptic mange suspected in any dog with characteristic clinical signs even in the absence of a positive scraping. Skin scrapings are usually positive in cats

**Test comments:** Diagnosis may be made on clinical signs of intensely pruritic skin disease with characteristic distribution and response to treatment, even if negative skin scrapings are obtained

**Where Housed:**

- **Isolate** all positive cases ideally in a separate room used only for this purpose (ie. not in a bathroom). If strict isolation is unavailable, appropriate separation from the remainder of the population is mandatory
- **Quarantine** of exposed animals is not necessary, however, direct contact between dogs must be prevented
- Because of the possibility of human infection and environmental contamination, infested animals should not be housed in adoption areas or adopted until treatment has been completed and a cure has been microscopically confirmed

**How Cleaned:**

1. **Don proper PPE** for ANYONE coming in contact with a suspected animal or entering isolation – disposable gloves, disposable gown, impermeable shoe covers
2. Continue with your Centre's cleaning protocol as approved by the Department of Shelter Health & Wellness. **For cats**, spot cleaning is always preferred unless the cage is heavily soiled
3. Staff must wear full PPE (gloves, gown, shoe covers) in any room housing symptomatic animals undergoing treatment
4. **Disinfect using** (whichever is your normal disinfecting agent):  
**Oxidizing Agents:** Such as Prevail®, Peroxigard Plus™, Virkon®
5. Dishwashers should be used in place of mechanical scrubbing, when at all possible
6. **ONE FULL CLEANING (cleaned, disinfected, dried) is required before reusing the kennel.** Environments that are not easily mechanically cleaned and disinfected should be treated with an environmental flea control product

\*\* As a reminder where staff is responsible for cleaning multiple housing units, the sequence they should be cleaned is: **From clean to dirty,**

1. Adoptable kittens/puppies
2. Adoptable adult animals
3. Stray/Quarantine kittens/puppies
4. Stray/Quarantine adult animals
5. Isolation areas

**Which animals to treat:**

- Treat symptomatic animals as well as any animals that have had direct contact with the infected animal (ie. co-housed). This should only be undertaken in an animal centre if sufficient facilities exist to effectively separate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. The treatment plan will be determined by the VCPR (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship) between the facility and their regular veterinarian
- All animals should be treated, as long as they are a good adoption candidate and as long as there is appropriate separation (separate room isolated from other animals is preferred but not mandatory) and adequate resources to support treatment and housing

**Treatment:**

- Any animal showing symptoms and/or a positive diagnostic test, will receive a treatment plan as per VCPR

**Monitoring:**

- ACA, RVT or senior animal care member is responsible for daily monitoring and proper documentation

**Recovery/Treatment Failure:**

- To be determined by the supervising veterinarian

**Adoption:**

- Animals will be placed up for adoption after treatment has concluded and symptoms have resolved
- REMINDER: Before being placed for adoption, **bathing** the animal with an antibacterial shampoo (such as Pure Oxygen Ultra Shampoo®) to eliminate crustiness is required

**Documentation:**

- All animal centres are required to provide pertinent information as per the Ontario SPCA Adoption Sharing and Caring Policy

**References:** Koret Centre, Shelter Medicine – UC Davis