

ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

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Disease Name:	Sarcoptic mange (aka scabies)
Agent:	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> var. <i>canis</i> (burrowing mite)
Clinical Signs:	<p>Animals: Persistent scratching and crusting especially around the ears and elbows.</p> <p>Humans: Excessive itching all over the body, mostly at night, and a uniform red bumpy rash. Blisters on the palms and on the soles of the feet. Small insect bites that resemble pimples, and the collection of a few bites in a particular area resembling an “S” shape. These bites are often found in the nooks and crevices of the body. A secondary infection develops on the surface of the skin.</p>
Susceptible domestic species	Dogs, may transiently infect cats
Zoonotic?	Yes
Diagnostic tests:	Skin scrape
Test sensitivity (false negatives)	Poor – about 50% false negatives. Mites less likely to be detected with chronic disease, severe pruritus, or history of treatment. Sensitivity improved by taking multiple scrapings.
Test specificity (false positives)	Excellent with careful species identification
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.
Vaccine available?	No
Vaccine efficacy	N/A
Excreted in:	In fur and immediate environment.
Mode of transmission:	Direct contact, fomite transmission. Mites live off host up to six days at room temperature, longer (up to 21 days) in moist, cool environments.
Disinfection	Environments that are not easily mechanically cleaned and disinfected (home-like environments) should be treated with an environmental pesticide.
Incubation	Dogs may show signs within a few days of infection.
Post recovery shedding	Live mites may remain after resolution of pruritus – continue treatment for two weeks past remission, at least 4-6 weeks.
Carrier state?	<p>Yes. All dogs in prolonged direct contact (house or kennel mates) with affected dog should be treated, as asymptomatic carriers exist.</p> <p>Humans may find the rash breaks out between two days to four weeks after infestation.</p>
Treatment	Revolution given topically every two weeks; Advantage Multi and Ivermectin.
PPE Required	Gloves, gown