



## Ivermectin Use for Treatment of Demodectic Mange

Your pet has been diagnosed with a skin disorder known as demodectic mange. It is caused by microscopic mites that live deep in the skin around hair roots and in oil glands. These mites are not considered to be contagious to people or other pets.

The approved method of treatment is a series of medicated dips with a product called Mitaban. Alternative treatments are also available. Your pet's doctor has carefully considered the benefits and risks associated with all the possible demodectic mange treatments. In some cases, the alternative treatment ivermectin (an oral medication) is recommended.

Ivermectin has been used in veterinary medicine since the mid-seventies and is the ingredient in a commonly prescribed heartworm preventative. This medication has been FDA tested and approved for use as heartworm prevention in dogs at a lower dosage than is used for treatment of demodectic mange. To be effective, the dosage used for demodex therapy is 6-8x the heartworm prevention dosage and is often given daily.

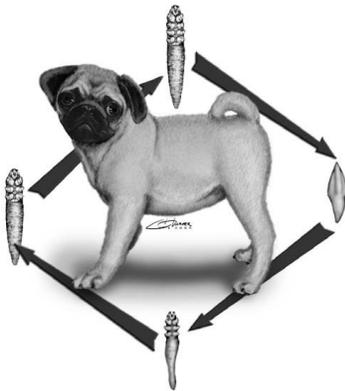
Due to expense, the manufacturer of ivermectin has not pursued testing to pass FDA guidelines for use at this higher dose. However, ivermectin has gone through extensive clinical trials. Dermatology experts have used ivermectin for treatment of demodectic mange for 8–10 years and have published extensive dosing recommendations in veterinary medical journals and textbooks. When used in this way, ivermectin is used "off-label," meaning in a fashion that is not directly indicated on the manufacturer's label.

Ivermectin has been given safely with a wide variety of products and medications. Your veterinarian should be made aware of all products that you administer and/or intended to administer to your dog. For heartworm prevention, use products that are specifically prescribed by your veterinarian.

Some breeds are sensitive to ivermectin at these higher levels. In this case, your veterinarian may recommend using an alternative medication called milbemycin (also off-label) to treat your pet for this skin disease. Milbemycin

is generally not a first choice treatment for non-sensitive breeds because of the significant expense involved with its use. The most commonly sensitive breeds include Australian shepherds, Collies, Border collies, Shelties (Shetland sheepdogs), and occasionally, Old English sheepdogs. On rare occasions, other dogs may unpredictably show sensitivity to ivermectin.

Symptoms of sensitivity may include lack of appetite, listlessness, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, incoordination, seizures, and in very rare instances death. To monitor for possible side effects, ivermectin should be introduced to your pet gradually over a three-week period. **If any of these symptoms show up in your pet, stop the medication immediately, and call our hospital.** If we are not available or are closed, please contact the nearest veterinary emergency facility immediately.



Give by mouth every 24 hrs: Day:	Dates: (start)	Thru:	Amount
Day 1			ml
Day 2 & 3			ml
Day 4, 5, 6			ml
Day 7, 8, 9			ml
Day 10-16			ml
Day 17-45+			ml