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CLIENT INFORMATION

from The University of Tennessee
 College of Veterinary Medicine

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PYODERMA

Pyoderma is a bacterial infection of the skin usually caused by Staphylococcal species of bacteria. Bacteria will not cause disease on normal skin; however, any change in the skin's surface can make it susceptible to bacterial infection or "pyoderma." One common cause of pyoderma is secondary scratching that results from inhalant (pollens, dust, mold), flea or food allergies. Another common cause can be too little or too much production of the skin's natural oils, sometimes resulting from hormonal imbalances. Pyoderma is not an infection that your pet acquired from another animal or human.

It is important in treating a dog with pyoderma to diagnose and treat any underlying skin problem. Treatment of the pyoderma itself includes oral antibiotics and special shampoos. Culture of the bacteria may be necessary to determine the appropriate antibiotic your pet needs. It is important to give the full dose of antibiotic for the entire time prescribed regardless of how much better the skin looks. Special shampoos are used to aid in killing bacteria and to soothe itching skin. Treatment of underlying conditions is the key to preventing a recurrence of pyoderma.

In summary

1. Pyoderma is a bacterial skin infection that is not contagious.
2. Pyoderma is usually secondary to some other skin-related problems.
3. Pyoderma is treated by:
 - a. Giving antibiotics
 - b. Using special shampoos
 - c. Treating the underlying cause (allergies, hormonal imbalances, etc.)



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