

DIAGNOSING THE

Itchy dog

STEP 1: HISTORY

→ [AVDAP History Questionnaire](#)→ [Start From Scratch History Questionnaire](#)→ [AVDAP Guidelines](#)**1. How itchy is your dog on a scale of 0 – 10?**

0 Normal dog 2 Very mild itching 4 Mild itching 6 Moderate itching 8 Severe itching 10 Extremely severe itching

2. Does your dog lick, bite, chew, rub, roll, scratch or scoot? 3. At what age did you first notice the itch?

4. How long has your dog been itchy?
 A few years
 1-6 months
 6-12 months
 1-2 years
 > 2 years
5. Where on the body is the itch?
 Face (inc. chin, nose, eyes)
 Ears
 Neck
 Top of back
 Sides of body
 Bottom
 Front of legs
 Front paws
 Back legs
 Back paws
 Armpits/chest
 Abdomen/groin
6. Is the itch continuous, seasonal or intermittent?

7. What came first - the itch or the rash/skin changes?

8. Have you given any medications for itch or any other conditions?

9. Did they resolve, reduce or make no change to the itch?

10. Do you use any anti-flea products on your dog?
 No
 Yes
 Products

11. What do you feed your dog? Include any treats or table scraps

12. Are there any other pets in the household?

13. Do any of these animals have skin problems?

STEP 2: PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

→ [Start From Scratch Lesion Distribution Guide](#)

1. Body condition score

1 2 3 4 5

2. Coat quality

Good Poor

3. Changes in skin colour

Yes No Location

5. Alopecia

Yes No Location

7. Changes in skin thickness

Yes No Location

4. Rashes

Yes No Location

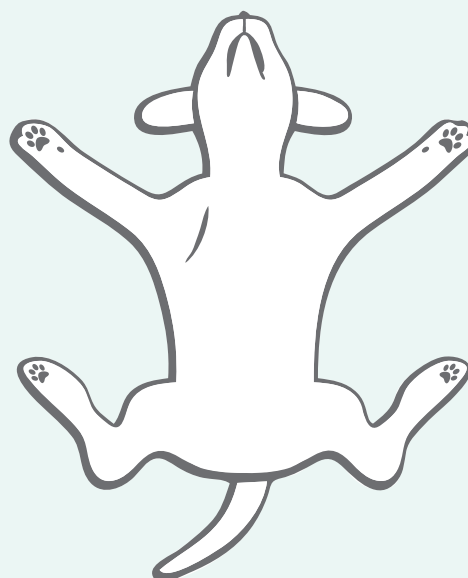
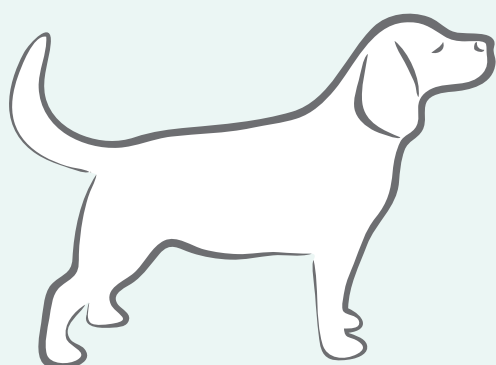
6. Excessive scaling

Yes No Location

8. Defects in skin integrity

Yes No Location

Record lesion distribution:



STEP 3. SKIN CYTOLOGY

- [Start from Scratch Video Series](#)
- [Start from Scratch Cytology Guide](#)
- [Start from Scratch Cytology Poster](#)

Flea comb results:

Adhesive tape impression results: (lesions/interdigital areas)

Glass slide impression smear results:

Ear cytology results:

Superficial & deep skin scrape results:

Trichogram results:

Squeeze tape impression results:

STEP 4: STOP THE ITCH

- [Apoquel & Cytopoint Technical Summary](#)



Provide relief

- Rapid relief within 4 hours
- Reduction in pruritus and inflammation
- Does not interfere with diagnostic testing
- For dogs from 12 months of age and >3kg
- Flexible dosing allows short or long term courses



Chronic itch control

- Caninised monoclonal antibody targeting IL31
- For the treatment of atopic dermatitis in dogs
- Once a month subcutaneous injection
- No age restrictions
- Add Apoquel for breakthrough pruritis



Flea prevention

- Simparica with active ingredient sarolaner helps to rule out common causes of parasitic itch:
- Fleas
 - Ear mites
 - Sarcoptic mites
 - Demodex mites



Manage skin infections

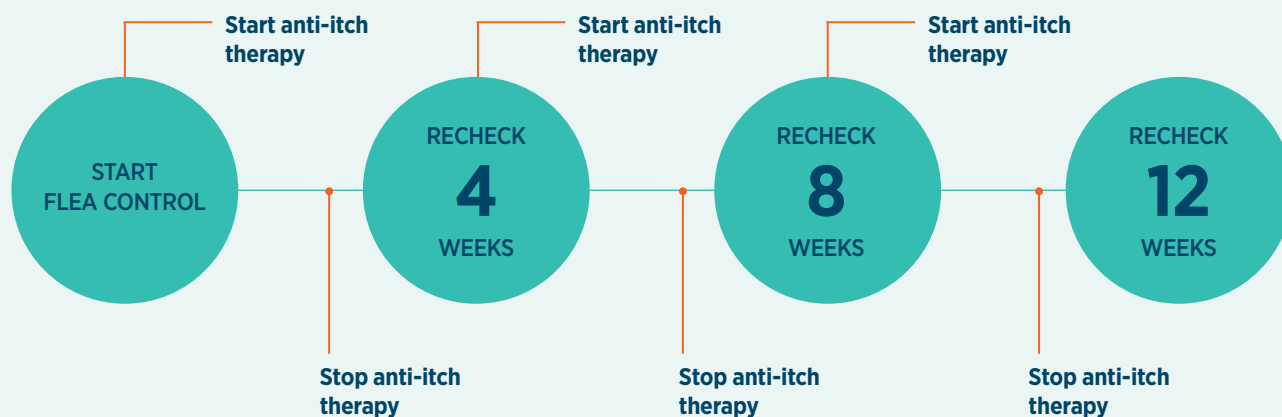
- Antimicrobial therapy - indicated when a skin infection is diagnosed based on:
- Compatible clinical signs
 - Supportive cytology
 - Bacterial culture
- AIDAP Antibiotic prescribing guidelines - further information on the responsible use of antibiotics



STEP 5: INVESTIGATE ALLERGIES

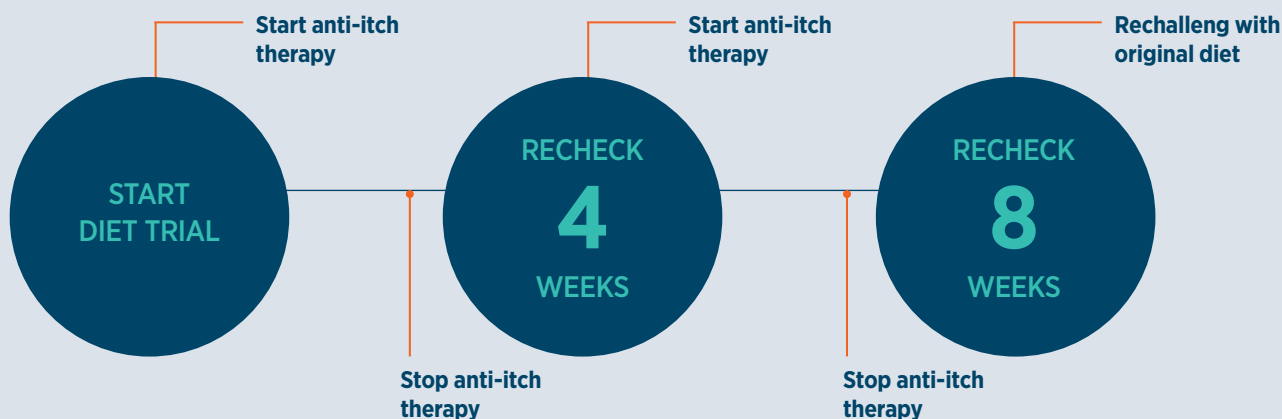
Suspicious of flea allergy?

Conduct a flea control trial (up to 3 months)¹



Suspicious of food allergy?

Conduct an 8-week food trial²



Tips

- ✓ Apoquel is a great choice during flea and food allergy trials - it provides rapid itch relief within 4 hours and does not interfere with diagnostic testing.
- ✓ The pharmacokinetics of Apoquel allow quick assessment of a diet trial within 24-48 hours after discontinuation of Apoquel.
- ✓ In existing infestations, Simparica starts killing fleas fast within 3 hours, before they lay eggs thus effectively breaking the flea lifecycle. Simparica keeps going strong against fleas for 35 days.³

1. Hensel P, Santoro D, Favrot C, et al. Canine atopic dermatitis: detailed guidelines for diagnosis and allergen identification. *BMC Vet Res.* 2015;11:196. doi:10.1186/s12917-015-0515-5.

2. Olivry T, Mueller R, Prélaud P, et al. Critically appraised topic on adverse food reactions of companion animals (1): duration of elimination diets. *BMC Vet Res.* 2015;11:225. doi:10.1186/s12917-015-0541-3.

3. Six, R.H., et al., Evaluation of the speed of kill, effects on reproduction, and effectiveness in a simulated infested-home environment of sarolaner (Simparica) against fleas on dogs. *Vet Parasitol.* 2016.

STEP 6: ATOPIC DERMATITIS

There are two available methods of allergy testing for investigation of canine atopic dermatitis:

- Intradermal allergy test
- Allergen-specific IgE serology

Positive results can be obtained with either test in clinically normal dogs and dogs with other skin diseases.

The test results are only meaningful if:

- The dog has clinical signs consistent with atopic dermatitis
- All other pruritic diseases have been ruled out (ectoparasites, pyoderma, Malassezia dermatitis, food allergy)³

SUPPORT & RESOURCES



Speak to a Specialist

Call 1800 312 917 | Text 0400 401 192 | Email dermatology@zoetis.com

Guidelines

- AVDAP Full Guidelines
- AVDAP Summary Guidelines
- AVDAP History Questionnaire
- AVDAP History Questionnaire - Interpretation Guide
- AVDAP Clinic Dermatology Protocol
- AIDAP Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines

Clinic Resources

- Start From Scratch Lesion Distribution Guide
- Start From Scratch Cytology Guide
- Start From Scratch Cytology Poster
- The True Cost of Steroids

Webinars & Videos

- Zoetis Academy
- Start From Scratch Cytology Video Series

Product Information

- Cytopoint Pet Owner Brochure
- Apoquel Pet Owner Brochure
- Apoquel & Cytopoint Technical Summary
- Apoquel Technical Update - Skin Infections
- Apoquel Technical Update - Neoplasia
- Apoquel Benefits Over Steroids
- Clinician's Forum Apoquel Roundtable

Client Handouts

- Client Handout Atopic Dermatitis
- Client Handout Demodectic Mange
- Client Handout How To Give A Medicated Bath
- Client Handout Itch Tracker
- Client Handout Pyoderma