



Bio-Life International Ltd

GENETIC DISEASES (Hereditary i.e. breeding)

Dogs with genetic diseases fall into 1 of 2 categories:

- Disorders that can be managed but owners have to appreciate that they have to be managed for life
- Disorders where the Veterinary Surgeon is likely to recommend euthanasia

The latter tend to occur when the dog is at the puppy stage and is still with the breeder. Referring these to your Veterinary Surgeon is critical not only because of the outcome for the unfortunate dog but also because the breeder should be deterred from future breeding with the same blood lines.

MANAGEABLE GENETIC DISORDERS

Idiopathic Sebhorreic Dermatitis or Primary Seborrhoea

Sebhorreic dermatitis means the outer layers of the skin and hair follicles are over active.

Symptoms:

- **First scurfing similar to dandruff where oil glands are largest
i.e. around the scalp, face & behind the ears**
- **Seborrhoea – greasy, waxy skin in Seborrhoea oleosa**
- **Skin thickening (Kerastosis) in Seborrhoea secca**
- **Inflammation caused by yeast infection normally Pitysporum ovale**
- **Reddening of the skin (Erythema)**
- **Secondary infections that cause unpleasant smell**
- **Only mild itching (Pruritis) unless the dog is left untreated**

Breeds commonly affected:

Dry or Seborrhoea secca: Cocker spaniels, English springer, West Highland, Basset Hound

Greasy or Seborrhoea oleosa: Irish Setters, Dachshunds, Doberman Pinschers

Age at first appearance: May begin as early as 10 weeks but more likely between 12 to 18 months. In older dogs, it is usually associated with environmental Atopic dermatitis and not hereditary.

Products that may benefit your dog:

- [MediCleanse™ Shampoo™ & Conditioner](#) once per week for the first 4 weeks and once per month thereafter.
- For Seborrhoea oleosa, use [MediCleanse™ Pure Essence spray](#) twice per day to any patches that appear until they clear.
- For Seborrhoea secca, apply [MediCleanse™ Paw & Patch Gel](#) twice per day until they clear.

This owner should always have the products to hand. If the condition is treated at the start of the reaction, the dog is less likely to get secondary infections and other complications.

A Kelp, Omega 3 & 6 and Garlic supplements do have some beneficial effects with this condition as well as a good diet.

[Ichthyosis or Idiopathic Demodicosis](#)

Symptoms:

- **Severe thickening of skin & paws (Demodicosis)**
- **Rapid skin cell multiplication (Hyperkeratosis)**
- **Characterisitc thick greasy flakes that adhere to the skin & hair**

Age at first appearance: At birth or very shortly thereafter if inherent. Spasmodic if not & then due to diet & metabolic disorder

Known carrier breeds:

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| Golden Retrievers | American Bulldogs |
| Jack Russell Terriers | Cairn Terriers |
| West Highland Terriers | King Charles Spaniel |
| Doberman Pinschers | Norfolk Terriers |
| Yorkshire Terriers | |

With hereditary ichthyosis, some owners opt to put the puppies down early on in life but not all. The spasmodic variant can be managed with dietary and other precautions.

Products that may benefit your dog:

- [Naturesdiet™](#) - Meat, biscuit & chews
- [Bones from the butcher](#) – AND NO OTHER TREATS!
- [Bio-Life HomeCleanse™](#) - for pet bedding & furnishings
- [Bio-Life MediCleanse™ Shampoo & Conditioner](#) – for routine use
- [Bio-Life MediCleanse™ Paw & Patch Gel](#) to exfoliate
- [Paw & Patch Moisturiser](#) during the recovery stage
- [Garlic as a natural tick & flea repellent & together with Kelp and Omega 3 & 6 to restore thyroid & immune function](#)

Sebaceous Adenitis

This is a condition in which the sebaceous glands in the skin become inflamed for unknown reasons and are eventually destroyed.

Age at first appearance: Between 1 & 5 years

Symptoms & Breeds affected:

In this instance, symptoms depend on the breed. In long coated breeds

- [the Akita, Samoyed and Standard Poodles](#)

- **Dry scaly skin**
- **Patchy hair loss (Alopecia) – top of head, back of neck & back**
- **Silvery scales that adhere to remaining tufts of hair/fur**
- **In severe cases, skin cell proliferation (Hyperkeratosis), weight loss and fever, musty smell & secondary infections**

In short coated breeds, mainly the [Vizsla](#):

- Moth-eaten coat
- Mild scaling on the trunk, head and ears

Products that may benefit your dog:

- Refer to Veterinary Surgeon for diagnosis by skin biopsy to ensure it is not another more serious condition
- Treat dry scaly patches with Bio-Life MediCleanse™ Paw & Patch Moisturiser twice daily until it clears
- Treat infected patches with Bio-Life MediCleanse™ Paw & Patch Gel twice daily until the infection clears & then apply Paw & Patch Moisturiser to help skin healing & hair re-growth

The pet owner should be encouraged to have product on hand at all times so that the condition can be treated as quickly as possible & before secondary infection set in. Incurable & recurring.

Hereditary canine follicular dysplasia

There are several different forms but the result is always the same – alopecia or hair loss and bald patches.

(i) Structural – weakened hair follicles prone to trauma and rubbing

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| Irish Water Spaniel |
| Portuguese Water Dog |
| Curly Coated Retriever |

Location: Under the collar, elbows, top of back & tummy

(ii) Atrophic – pattern baldness similar to male hair loss

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| Dachshunds |
| Miniature Pinschers |
| Chihuahuas |

Location: Neck, chest, under the tummy and inner thighs. In males, ear flaps also affected

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| Greyhounds |
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Location: Thighs, chest & tummy

(iii) Cyclical – seasonal alopecia (hair loss) with hyperpigmentation

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| Airdales | Bulldogs |
| Staffordshire Terriers | Wirehaired Pointing Griffon |
| Boxers | Affenpinschers |

Occurs: In the late autumn & early spring

Starts: Between age 2 & 4

Symptoms: Patchy hair loss and darkening of skin. Hair regrows but different colour & texture.

(iv) Follicular lipidosis – hair loss caused by lipid accumulation in the hair follicles

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| Rottweilers |
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Symptoms: Loss of mahogany or red hair around face & feet

Starts: At around 9 months of age.

(iv) Colour Dilution Alopecia – Hair loss caused by fractures of weakened hair shafts that occurs in the more unusual colour variants of certain breeds

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| Dobermanns | Chihuahuas |
| Dachshunds | Boston Terriers |
| Great Danes | Salukis |
| Whippet | Newfoundlands |
| Italian Greyhound | German Shepherds |
| Chow Chows | Shetland Sheepdogs |
| Standard Poodles | Schipperke |
| Miniature Pinschers | Bernese Mountain Dogs |
| Yorkshire Terriers | Bulldogs |
| Silky Terriers | |

Dilution colours: Blue or fawn coats

Symptoms: Hair loss and recurrent skin infections

Location: Principally on the back although it can occur elsewhere

Starts: Between 6 months and 2 years of age

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| Siberian Huskys |
| Alaskan Malamutes |

Location & type: Guard hairs on the tummy turn red

Starts: Around 3-4 months of age

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| Papillons |
| Bearded Collies |
| Large Munsterlanders |

Type: Black & white variants lose black hair patches

Starts: Soon after birth

Products that may benefit your dog:

- Treat patches with [Bio-Life MediCleanse™](#)
- [MediCleanse™ Paw & Patch Moisturiser](#) to help prevent infection & dehydration
- Owners should think carefully about choosing the colour of their dog. It may be “stunning” & different but it is not desirable if it is associated with a hair loss gene that also predisposes the dog to infection!