



LET'S TALK ABOUT

HOW TO GET RID OF MITES

AN APH CARE GUIDE

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WHERE DO MITES COME FROM?



Mites are hedgehog specific and will not bother you or your other pets. There are two theories on how a hedgehog gets infested with mites:

1. Mites can be transferred from an outside source such as an infested bag of food, paper beddings etc or directly from another hedgehog.
2. A few mites are always living on the hedgehog but are mostly dormant until the hedgehog's immune system is lowered enough for them to reproduce.

A stressed hedgehog may be more likely to get a mite outbreak because their natural defenses may be compromised, similar to a virus attacking a compromised immune system.

Additionally, the reproduction rates of mites increase during cool weather and decrease during hot weather, so preventive treatments are more important during cooler months. The life cycle of a mite can be as short as 10-12 days during the Winter. However, some mites have a life cycle of three weeks so it is important to keep cleaning daily.

While mite infestations are not common you may have to deal with one or two throughout the life of your hedgehog. It's important to be aware of the signs any issues.

POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS

- Constant itching or scratching due to extremely dry flaky skin, or crustiness around the eyes
- Concentrated quill loss, most commonly on the hedgehog's back
- While mites are usually under the skin, in more severe cases they may be visible to the naked eye and might be seen crawling around on the hedgehog, enclosure, and /or bedding

NOT EVERY ITCH AND SCRATCH IS DUE TO MITES

Since hedgehogs have naturally dry skin and tend to itch and scratch on occasion, don't stress over the first signs of an itchy hedgehog. When a younger hedgehog is quilling they tend to scratch often due to the discomfort of the new quills breaking through their skin.

But extreme quill loss from a concentrated area is a sure sign of an advancing infestation of mites or topical yeast infection.

HOW TO CHECK FOR MITES

First, check their skin and see if there is any quill loss or damaged and flaky areas. Mites will cause quills to have a mushy yellowish crust substance at the base of them. A severe mite infestation will also cause hair loss, particularly around the face.

The easiest way to check for mites is to place your hedgehog on a black surface. Give their skin a good scrub with a toothbrush in between their quills. Observe the “flakes”, if you spot any movement then you have a mite problem. Also you can often see them run across the hedgehog’s face and in the ears with the human eye.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DISCOVER MITES

Environmental Treatment:

Enclosure Cleaning:

Thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire enclosure, including the flooring, hide box, food and water bowls, and any toys.

Vacuum and clean the area around the enclosure, as mites can live in the environment. If your hogs free roam vacuum any areas they may have been in contact with daily as mites can live up to three weeks without a host.

Bedding:

Wash or replace all bedding, including blankets and towels, at 60 degrees. Bedding needs changed daily to prevent new eggs from hatching.

Freezing:

Freezing bedding and food (in its packaging) for 24 hours can help kill mites and prevent reinfestation. Thankfully, mites cannot survive the freezing process, so freezing their litter and bedding before use is a good preventative measure. It is a good idea to freeze any new bedding and food going forward, as this is how new mites are often brought into the household.

Important Considerations:

Quarantine:

Keep the affected hedgehog separate from other pets during treatment and until the infestation is eradicated.

Prevention:

Practice good hygiene when handling hedgehogs, including handwashing, between handling each hog, to prevent the spread of mites. Mites may also be caused by dust in the home and hedgehogs can be extra sensitive to dust mites.



TREATMENT FOR MITES

Topical treatments :

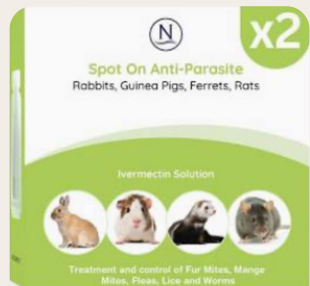
Before use please weigh your hedgehog.
A full pipettes can only be used on animals weighing over 300g. Simply squeeze the liquid onto the back of the neck area, repeat with another pipette after either 2-4 weeks as per instructions. It is advised not to bath your hog for 2-3 days after treatment so you are not washing away the treatment.

Beaphor Anti Parasite Spot on - active ingredient ivermectin

Xeno 50- Mini - active ingredient ivermectin

Naqua Spot on Anti Parasite - active ingredient ivermectin

Please note that ivermectin is safe to use as a topical external parasite killer, but should not be injected by a vet. Some hogs have been known to have adverse and fatal reactions to injected ivermectin. Vets can use Selamectin as an alternative. Permethrin spot on treatments should not be used as this can be toxic to hedgehogs.



Naqua - 2 x VET
STRENGTH -

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Diatomaceous Earth:

Diatomaceous Earth, or DE for short. It is an organic and pure product derived from phytoplankten silica eating deep sea creatures that are prehistoric. It is actually tiny microscopic razor sharp molecules that pierces the mites skin and dehydrates them from the inside out upon contact within 10 hours. To mammals and humans though, it feels very soft and is not dangerous. We recommend using only as a hedgehog mite home remedy and only until the hedgehog is free of mites. As much as possible, we want to make sure the hedgehog does not breath it in too much. Many hedgehog owners have used this product to eliminate itchy mites. Make sure you buy food grade diatomaceous earth in case it gets ingested. DE is your first step for an immediate hedgehog mites home remedy because:

- Direct contact with mites, fleas, and ants it will eliminate them
- Sprinkle the powder on your carpet after vacuuming to remove lingering mites
- Using DE as a temporary treatment improves healthy skin and hair/quill growth.

Temporarily during the treatment, it is recommended to use paper towel or puppy pads sprinkled with DE as the viv liner so you can easily take it out and replace it daily. Check every 8-10 hours for mite carcasses and vacuum them out as needed.

However, a word of caution, this is a dust and so it may cause respiratory irritations in your hedgie with prolonged use. Only use when you have mites.

Coconut oil:

Coconut oil is not usually recommended (unless for dry ears etc) to be used directly on your hedgie's skin, but in this case, we have mites we need to suffocate. Coconut oil can cause pores to become blocked if not rinsed off well, however it is also very soothing on their skin after mite treatment. Just put a small amount of coconut oil in a warm bath and let them soak it in. Make sure to rinse off the coconut oil really well using your regular wash solution after.

Olive oil:

Again can be used as a natural remedy in warm water to help suffocate the mites. Like coconut oil please ensure they are thoroughly rinsed afterwards to allow the hogs skin to breathe.

Apple cider Vinegar :

Apple cider vinegar is truly a miracle item, proclaimed by many throughout the ages to have multiple uses and provide comfort and healing for popular infections and colds such as staph infections and yes - mites!

It is believed a drop of Apple cider vinegar in their water bowls each night helps keep the mites at bay., however this has no scientific proof. People who wish to use more natural remedies put a few drops of this in the bath water, effectiveness unknown.

