

Funded Study: Superficial pyoderma (bacterial skin infection) in dogs

Study Title: Duration of antibiotic therapy for superficial pyoderma: Is one week post resolution of clinical signs a valid rule-of-thumb?

Purpose of Study/Background/Objectives: Currently superficial pyoderma is recommended to be treated with a minimum of 3 weeks of oral antibiotic or 1-week past resolution. This recommendation is anecdotal and there are no published therapeutic clinical trials to determine if this is a valid rule of thumb. With growing concern for antimicrobial stewardship, there is a call for more research in this area. The objectives of this study are to 1) determine if superficial pyoderma recurs sooner in dogs not treated one week beyond clinical resolution of infection, 2) determine the average time for superficial pyoderma to resolve, 3) investigate if infection duration correlated with the severity of infection and microbial resistance pattern, 4) compare susceptibility pattern of bacteria isolated at the study entrance and at recurrence.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Dogs with superficial pyoderma confirmed by examination and cytology (see images below)
- Oral antibiotic therapy must be clinically warranted
- Underlying conditions (i.e., allergies) addressed during study period

Exclusion Criteria:

- Dogs cannot receive topical medications such as antibiotics or antiseptics to the skin

Treatment/Protocol: Dogs will be examined and if confirmed to have superficial pyoderma by cytology. A culture and susceptibility will be performed and an oral antibiotic course prescribed accordingly. Dogs will visit the teaching hospital for skin examinations every 2 weeks during the study period for up to approximately 8 visits.

Compensation: \$100 Veterinary Teaching Hospital credit upon completion of study

Contact Information: If you are interested in enrolling a patient in the study, please email Dr. Clegg at jclegg@illinois.edu. Referring veterinarian and client inquiries are welcomed.

