

## Hot Spots & Dogs

It is normal to see a dog scratch or chew an area on his or her skin for a little while. However, if your dog scratches until his skin is raw or oozing, there is a good chance he or she has a hot spot. Hot spots are often caused by an allergic reaction to fleas or other infections.

A hot spot is a circular patch of raw or red skin that is self-induced by licking or chewing. Often the area around the spot is swollen. Hot spots can occur quickly and are more common in long-haired dogs and very painful.



The easiest way to prevent hot spots is to keep up with flea and allergy prevention. Clipping the area around the hot spot will help it dry quicker. Moisture can be eliminated by treating the spot with a powder or astringent. Most hot spots can be treated at home, but if the area is so sore that your dog will not allow you to treat it, then take him or her to a veterinarian. Hot spots on the face usually indicate a deeper skin infection and require oral antibiotics.