



## EAR MITES

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

Otodectes cynotis is the most common species of **ear mites** found in canine and feline patients which can easily spread through brief physical contact with infected animals. This disease is most often found in feline patients, occasionally ferrets, and less commonly in canine patients.

Infection produces a characteristic dry, black ear discharge that is commonly said to resemble coffee grounds. They can also cause very irritating ear infections that may need to be concurrently treated.

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

The classic appearance of black ear discharge is highly suggestive but needs to be confirmed with a simple microscopic examination.

### TREATMENT

There are numerous products available from a veterinarian to eliminate **ear mites**, as well as some older products available over the counter. However, most all of these older over-the-counter products are not effective at killing incubating mite eggs and are not effective in long-term control.

Once ear debris has been removed, there are several prescription products which can eradicate **ear mite** infections after single applications of topical medications.

- Ivermectin (Acarexx®) – Topical preparation which is placed directly into the ear canal
- Milbemycin (MilbeMite®) – Topical preparation which is placed directly into the ear canal
- Selamectin (Revolution®) – Topical monthly skin preparation
  - Also kills fleas, heartworm, roundworms, and hookworms
- Imidacloprid & Moxidectin (Advantage Multi®) – Topical monthly skin preparation
  - Also kills fleas, heartworm, roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms
  - Will also treat sarcoptic mange in dogs

Patients will also need to be treated for secondary ear infections if they exist.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Do not diagnose an **ear mite** infection on your own; plenty of diseases cause ear irritation with dark debris.
- Over-the-counter medications will not completely solve the problem and will not treat if secondary infections exist.