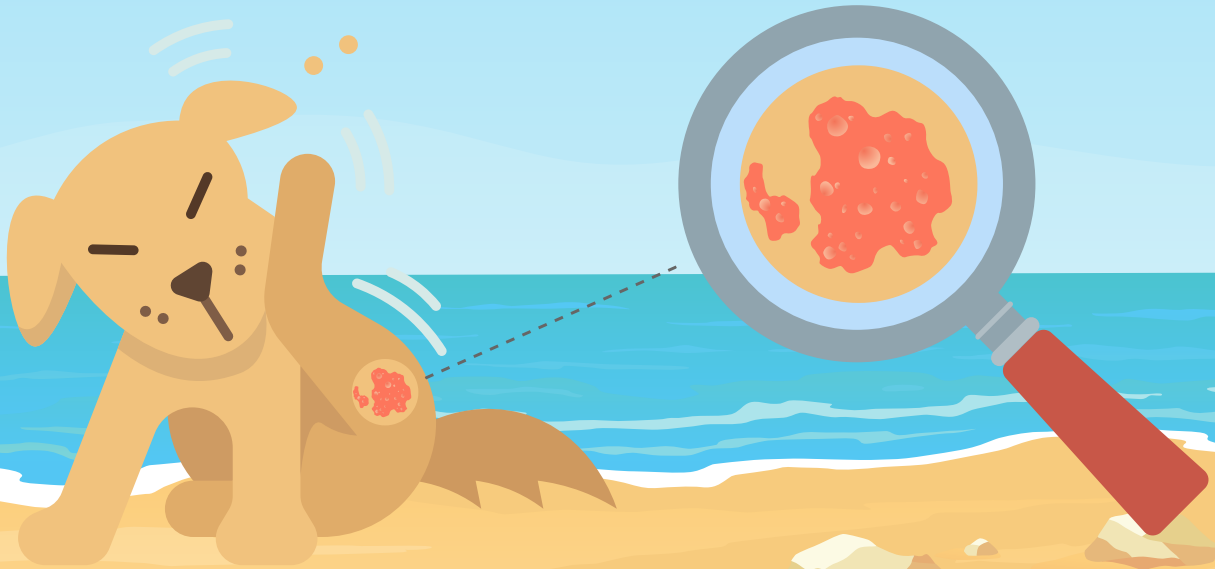


# HOT SPOTS



## What is it?

Pyotraumatic moist dermatitis, or “hot spot”, is a local and typically superficial skin infection. Hot spots are most common in double-coated dogs due to moisture trapping against the skin. This creates a warm, moist environment for bacteria to thrive and proliferate. Swimming is a seasonal risk factor, but so are allergies.

## Why do we worry?

Hot spots are incredibly uncomfortable for the pet, causing pain and itch. A pet’s own self-trauma (over-grooming, scratching) can cause the infection, inoculating bacteria. Continuous self-trauma will extend the affected area and lead to more devastating infection, such as necrotizing fasciitis.

## What should pet owners do?

If you suspect a hot spot, avoid over-the-counter treatments. Ointments trap moisture and bacteria, and hydrogen peroxide can damage healing tissue. Use an Elizabethan collar to prevent irritation and consult your vet.

## Veterinary Care

Effective hot spot treatment includes clipping hair to reduce moisture, which may require sedation, and thoroughly cleaning the area—ideally after collecting a culture if needed. Treatment typically involves topical and systemic antibiotics, strict use of an Elizabethan collar, and allergy meds if appropriate.