What’s Causing Your Dog’s Itch?
Diagnosis begins with relief

It’s important to provide itch relief for your pet throughout the diagnostic approach

Stop the itch
- Anti-itch therapy

Rule out parasites
- Flea comb, skin scrapes
- Start oral ectoparasite therapy

Treat skin infections
- Bacterial infection
  - Typical lesions, skin cytology, skin culture
  - Antibiotics
  - Topical
  - +/- systemic
- Yeast dermatitis
  - Skin cytology
  - Antifungals
  - Topical
  - +/- systemic

Conduct food trial
- Diet trial

Confirm atopic dermatitis
- Targeted atopic dermatitis therapy
- Oral ectoparasite therapy
- Bathing/topicals
- Diet

Suspicious of flea allergy?
Conduct a flea control trial (up to 3 months)

Suspicious of food allergy?
Conduct an 8-week food trial

How to rate your dog’s itch

100
Extremely severe itching
Dog is scratching, chewing, licking almost continuously. Itching practically never stops, regardless of what else is happening around the dog.

80
Severe itching
Prolonged episodes of itching when the dog is awake. Itching occurs at night and also when eating, playing, or exercising, or when otherwise distracted.

60
Moderate itching
Regular episodes of itching when the dog is awake. Itching may occur at night and wake the dog. No itching when eating, playing, exercising, or being distracted.

40
Mild itching
Moderately frequent episodes of itching. There may be occasional episodes of itching at night. No itching when sleeping, eating, playing, exercising, or being distracted.

20
Very mild itching
Occasional episodes of itching. The dog is slightly more itchy than before the problem began.

0
Normal dog
Itching is not a problem.