

A brief history.....

In 1994 The South of England Basset Hound Club contacted Dr Ross Bond, BVMS Phd DVD MRCVS DipECVD, a Senior Lecturer & Specialist in this field at the Royal Veterinary College. Since then several investigations/projects have taken place with the help of many owners.

PROJECTS

- Yeast Counts on Basset Hounds, both Healthy and Affected.
- Double Blind Placebo controlled shampoo study - this produced *Malaseb* which is widely used by all vets for many skin problems now.
- Cell-mediated immunity to yeast.
- Cutaneous Responses to Interdermal Challenge with *Malassezia Pachydermatis*
- Pathogenesis of *Malassezia Pachydermatis* in Basset Hounds.
- Immunity to *Malassezia Pachydermatis* in Basset Hounds.

This research is still continuing and the next project will investigate the innate immunity of Basset Hounds to *Malassezia Pachydermatis*.

The Immunology Group at the Royal Veterinary College have developed methods for assessing nucleotide polymorphisms in canine Toll Like Receptor genes, and these tests are now available for use in investigating breed-associated susceptibility to infectious diseases.

ALWAYS CONTACT YOUR OWN VETERINARY SURGEON FOR
ADVICE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF YOUR BASSET HOUND

Information Leaflet Compiled and Supplied by

The Basset Hound Health Group

To keep up to date with all matters affecting Basset Hounds in your area, why not join your local Breed Club?
Contact details for the Breed Club in your area:

The Basset Hound Club

Mrs S Jones 01279 874838
clanwillowbassetounds@gmail.com

The Basset Hound Club of Scotland

Mr D. Sharpe 01786 880259
thebhcofscotland@aol.com

The Basset Hound Club of N. Ireland

Mr P Lennon 0282 5892703
Zanabekbassetounds@yahoo.co.uk

The Basset Hound Club of Wales

Mrs T Watkins 01495 271101
blackveinkg@gmail.com

The Midland Basset Hound Club

Mrs C Whitehead 02476 345577
cath_whitehead@fsmail.net

The Lancs, Yorks & Cheshire Basset Hound Club

Mrs M Ledward 0161 626 4985
marled33@hotmail.co.uk

The Hadrian Basset Hound Club

Mr T Coddington 0191 285 4116

The South of England Basset Hound Club

Mrs K Culyer Dawson 0207 684 8152
kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk

HL5 08/11

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE WITH
The Kennel Club



© The Basset Hound Health Group



www.bassetrus.co.uk

Malassezia Pachydermatis

Malassezia Pachydermatis is a common, vigorous yeast organism that is found on healthy, normal and abnormal canine skin and in ears. All dogs have this. The Basset Hound is not the only Breed to suffer from this condition. In the latest Basset Hound Health Survey, it was the most prevalent problem found in the Breed.

This information leaflet has been produced to help you to understand a little about *Malassezia Pachydermatis*

WHAT IS IT?

The skin and haircoat of healthy dogs is populated by a variety of micro-organisms, principally bacteria and yeasts. Under normal circumstances these microbes live in harmony with the host and do not induce disease; a variety of host defence mechanisms serve to limit these populations. However skin infections may develop when the resident microbes are able to overwhelm the host defences.

On normal healthy skin *Malassezia Pachydermatis* causes no problems. As the yeast is a normal flora it cannot be eliminated therefore it will always be present.

Severe and recurrent disease is often seen in dogs and long-term antifungal therapy is often needed to keep the infection under control or to prevent recurrence. Although any breed may be affected, studies at the Royal Veterinary College have indicated that Cocker Spaniels, West Highland White Terriers and Basset Hounds are predisposed to *Malassezia Pachydermatis*.

When dermatitis appears *Malassezia Pachydermatis* is not really a "primary" condition or infection, that is, an illness on its own. It is really an overgrowth of normal flora which has arisen because something in the environment of the skin or ear canal has changed. As a result the yeast multiplies and the objective is

- 1) to inhibit this overgrowth or multiplication and
- 2) identify and correct, where possible, the underlying diseases that allowed the yeasts to overgrow in the first place.

In the latest Basset Hound Health Survey, Malassezia Pachydermatis was the most prevalent problem found in the Breed.

CLINICAL SIGNS

Malassezia Pachydermatis may be the primary cause of skin problems or a secondary one. This may be related to an alteration in the immune response to the yeast.

Malassezia Pachydermatis can be a complicating factor in a dog of any breed with a skin condition. Some of the factors that can lead to this condition include moisture, as in dogs with skin folds or with pendant ears and/or with narrow ear canals, excessive waxy or scaly build-up, or allergic/bacterial skin disease. An alteration in the immune response may be related to this.

Dogs with more generalised *Malassezia Pachydermatis* infection may have typical clinical signs such as:- *Hair Loss, Redness of the Skin, Greasy Coat, Darkening of the Skin, Increased Scale Production, Leathery Skin, Itchiness, Seborrhoeic Smell.*

The smell is very distinctive and some call it "mousy" or like mushrooms and any or all of these signs may or may not be an indicator of the yeast.

Some of the areas typically affected are:- *The Abdomen, Under the Front Legs (Armpits), the Visible parts of the Ear, the Face, Feet, Front Legs, Skin Folds.*

Narrow ear canals and/or pendulous ears retain moisture and wax and inhibit the circulation of air. This can encourage the overgrowth of yeast. Sebum, an oily, waxy substance, is a common cause, especially in pendulous ears, as in the Basset Hound. There is often a distinctive smell from the discharge from the ears and the dog may or may not be in pain and shake his head.

It is important that the underlying condition is established. This condition is treated with anti-fungal drugs and/or medicated shampoos. The itchiness usually subsides quite quickly, and the skin lesions within a few weeks.

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

Diagnosis

First and foremost any underlying disease/condition must be properly diagnosed and treated; whether it is a bacterial infection, an allergy, seborrhea or any condition that suppresses the animal's immune system.

Correct diagnosis will essentially determine which treatment is appropriate. In any case, the yeast infection must be cleared up, and then your Vet will look for an underlying cause. If none can be found, and the yeast infection quickly recurs, this might suggest that *Malassezia Pachydermatis* is the primary problem.

Treatment

This condition is treated with anti-fungal drugs and/or medicated shampoos. The itchiness usually subsides quite quickly, and the skin lesions within a few weeks. Your dog must continue taking the drug or being bathed for another week or so beyond the symptoms disappearing.

Often there is recurrence of the yeast infection, although the frequency may be reduced if an underlying cause can be identified and either treated or managed. Sometimes an ongoing, maintenance regime is required to prevent recurring yeast infections. Fundamentally, treatment involves creating an environment that is hostile to *Malassezia Pachydermatis*.

Here are some areas typically affected

