

Skin scrapes compared to hair plucks for diagnosis of Canine Demodicosis

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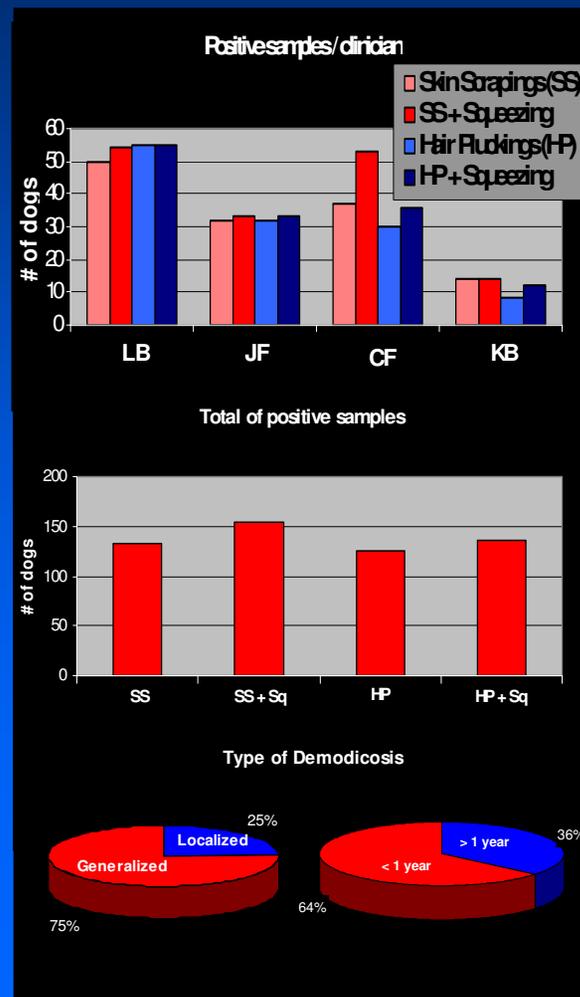
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Objectives

- ✓ Multicentre prospective study
- ✓ Comparison of sensitivity of skin scrapes and hair plucks (with or without skin squeezing) for collection of *Demodex* mites in dogs with demodicosis

Methods

- ✓ 161 dogs with localized or generalized, juvenile or adult onset demodicosis were included at their initial examination
- ✓ Standardized area was determined for each method of sampling
- ✓ Deep skin scrapes and hair plucks were performed on a non prepared skin and after skin squeezing
- ✓ Material was collected on a glass slide and put in a chloral lactophenol or mineral oil drop. The slides were examined with light microscopy with a 100X magnification
- ✓ Specimens were classified as positive (demonstration of *Demodex* adults, larvae or eggs) or negative



Summary

- ✓ 161 dogs were included in the study (localized demodicosis 25%, generalized 75%)
- ✓ No statistical difference was observed between skin scrapes and hair plucks with respect to proportion of *Demodex* positive specimens
- ✓ Squeezing the skin prior to scraping significantly increased the number of positive specimens
- ✓ Sensitivity of the technique varies between clinicians

Conclusions

- ✓ *Hair plucks (a technique easy to perform and well accepted by dogs and their owners) can be recommended for diagnosing canine demodicosis*
- ✓ *However, skin scrapes after squeezing appear to be the most sensitive method to collect *Demodex* mites*