

When the Itching Just Won't Stop...

Humane Society of Manatee County's New Dermatology Services Use Pioneering Medicine to Cure Common Skin Conditions & Allergies in Animals

By Rick Yocum
Executive Director, Humane Society of Manatee County

The Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic, located at 2415 14th Street W. Bradenton, has been in operation since September 2015. The clinic is open to the public by appointment and provides high quality, low-to-moderate cost veterinary care.

The clinic continues to expand available services based on the needs of the community's animals.

In September 2021, Dermatology Services became available at the clinic to meet the growing demand for these services.

Skin and ear issues comprise a large percentage of veterinary visits, and many of these conditions are related to allergies, particularly environmental allergies.

Skin disease and allergies adversely impact an animal's quality of life and often require lifelong care. Typical treatments include oral medications, shampoos, topical medications and frequent ear cleaning. This can be costly and labor intensive, which contributes to owners becoming non-compliant.

Past dermatological treatments have included management with steroid-based medications and oral antibiotics. Long-term steroid use can lead to liver and kidney disease, weight gain, Cushing's Disease and even additional

skin issues. Continued antibiotic use creates antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which limits future treatment options.

When skin conditions become severe, owners are often referred to dermatological specialty providers. Owners can be hesitant to pursue this option because it can be costly, but also because they simply do not want to go elsewhere for veterinary care.

If the intricacy of skin and allergy-related issues are not fully addressed by the veterinary medical team, owners will often manage with the cheapest and easiest option.

Left untreated, skin disease can lead to systemic bacterial and fungal infections, demodectic mange, anemia, enlarged lymph nodes, deafness and eye ulcers, as well as pain and discomfort.

Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic currently has many tools to manage skin disease and allergy-related issues.

Prior to September of last year, however, the clinic could not provide a cure in many cases. Now several levels of allergy testing (basic, moderate and complex) can be performed, allowing structured case management services and a vaccine developed to cure the animal.

Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic's goal is to provide high quality, low-to-moderate cost veterinary care so that



Rick Yocum, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Manatee County.

Allergy Symptoms & Behaviors in Dogs

EARS
SYMPTOMS: Waxy Discharge • Redness
Odor • Yeast Infections
BEHAVIOR: Rubbing • Scratching • Shaking Head

FACE
SYMPTOMS: Redness
Ear & Muzzle Hair Loss
Swelling
BEHAVIOR: Sneezing
Extensive Scratching
Rubbing Face with Paws

SKIN
SYMPTOMS: Redness
Bad Odor • Dryness
Hair Loss • Irritation
Scaliness
BEHAVIOR: Rubbing • Scratching
Licking • Trembling

HAIR & COAT
SYMPTOMS: Redness • Bare Spots • Discoloration • Odor
Sores
BEHAVIOR: Licking • Scratching
Rubbing Against Furniture

PAWS
SYMPTOMS: Inflammation
Hot Spots • Odor • Yeast Infections • Discoloration
BEHAVIOR: Chewing • Licking

all animals in our community can receive the medical care they need and deserve. We also believe that continuity of care—or when one practitioner manages all of an animal's conditions—provides the best outcome for an animal.

Keeping companion animals in their homes with their human families by making veterinary care affordable is one of the cornerstones of the mission-based work at

the Humane Society of Manatee County.

To schedule an appointment for dermatological services, email clinic@humanesocietymanatee.org, or call 941-747-8808, Option #1. 🐾

Humane Society of Manatee County is located at 2515 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.humanemanatee.org online, or send an e-mail to infohumanesocietymanatee.org.

Open to the public, Humane Society of Manatee County Veterinary Clinic is located at 2415 14th Street West in Bradenton and can be reached by calling 941-747-8808, Option #1. The veterinary clinic is open by appointment Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information about HSMC's veterinary clinic, visit www.humanemanatee.org.