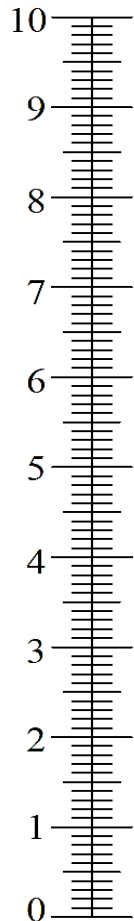


DOG AND CAT ITCH SCALE

HOW SEVERE IS YOUR PET'S ITCHING?

PRURITUS (ITCHING) MANIFESTS ITSELF BY SCRATCHING, NIBBLING, LICKING, WHEN A PET RUBS AGAINST OBJECTS OR PEOPLE, OR WHEN A PET RUBS ITS BACK. THE SCALE BELOW IS DESIGNED TO MEASURE THE SEVERITY OF ITCHING. READ ALL THE DESCRIPTIONS STARTING AT THE BOTTOM, THEN PLACE A MARK ANYWHERE ON THE VERTICAL LINE TO INDICATE THE POINT AT WHICH YOU THINK YOUR PET'S LEVEL OF ITCHINESS CURRENTLY LIES. THE MARK MAY BE PLACED BETWEEN TWO DESCRIPTIONS, IF NECESSARY.



Extremely severe itching / almost continuous

Itching does not stop whatever is happening, even in the consulting room (needs to be physically restrained from itching)

Severe itching / prolonged episodes

Itching might occur at night (if observed) and also when eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

Moderate itching / regular episodes

Itching might occur at night (if observed), but not when eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

Mild itching / a bit more frequent

Would not itch when sleeping, eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

Very mild itching / only occasional episodes

The dog/cat is slightly itchier than it was before the skin problem started

Normal dog/cat – I don't think itching is a problem

Adapted from Hill PB et al. Development of an owner-assessed scale to measure the severity of pruritus in dogs. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2007; 18: 301.

Last Update: March 2024