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FELINE MILIARY DERMATITIS

Feline miliary dermatitis is characterized by multiple discrete crusty lesions on the head, neck, lower back and ventral abdomen of cats. Affected cats usually lick these lesions excessively, although some do not. Others may scratch on these areas.

The majority of the cases (greater than 90%) are caused by fleabite allergies. A few are caused by other allergies (food allergy, atopy), other external parasites (mites, lice), fungal infections or dietary deficiencies. The cases for which a cause cannot be determined are called “idiopathic”.

Therapy will vary depending on the cause of the disease.

1. Since most of the cases are to flee bite allergy, stringent flea control is usually tried first.
2. Anti-inflammatory drugs may be used either orally or by injection.

If a specific cause can be identified then a specific therapy will be used to treat feline miliary dermatitis. Otherwise, anti-inflammatory or other drugs will be used to control the condition. Sometimes, a skin biopsy may be indicated for a definitive diagnosis.