

Mountain View Animal Hospital
129 Main Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452
Phone 802- 879-6311
www.vtvvet.com

LICK GRANULOMAS

Lick granulomas are thickened, raised, hairless, ulcerated areas of skin, usually found on the lower legs, that are created and maintained by the dog's licking.

The cause of the licking is usually unknown. Boredom may be a factor. Minor irritations such as cuts and moist dermatitis may cause the dog to being to lick the area. Bacteria may also be involved.

The objective of therapy is to control the self-mutilation by breaking the "lick cycle".

1. Eliminate boredom by providing a diversion such as more exercise, human companionship, or a canine playmate.
2. Apply topical medications with a disagreeable taste such as Bitter Apple ®, Variton ® cream, or Chew-Guard ®.
3. Prevent the dog from licking by using bandages, Elizabethan collars, or muzzles.
4. Frequently, anti-inflammatory drugs are used either as topical creams, orally, or injected directly into the lesion.
5. Sometimes tranquilizers are used.

Obviously, there are many different treatments for lick granulomas and various combinations of therapy will be used until the best one is found for your dog. Lick granulomas are seldom cured but they can be controlled.