Treatment of Feline Notoedres Mange

Effective Date: 10/15/2021 **Revised:**

Responsible Staff:

- Vet techs

Purpose: This SOP provides vet techs with a step-by-step procedure for diagnosis and treatment of cats with notoedric mange. Treatment consists of the extralabel use of a parasite product shown by clinical studies to be effective in eliminating Notoedres mites and resolving skin lesions in 1-2 months.

Feline Notoedric Mange Facts

- Notoedric mange or feline scabies = skin disease caused by infection of the epidermal layer of the skin in cats by Notoedres cati mites. Infection is acquired from close contact with infected cats.
- Clinical signs include alopecia, erythema, scales, and crusts on the ear margins. If not treated, the mange lesions can progress to the face and eventually the entire body. The burrowing mites in the epidermis cause intense pruritis. Skin trauma from constant scratching causes secondary bacterial skin infections and bleeding wounds.
- Feline notoedric mange is **CONTAGIOUS** to other cats and to people.

Supplies Needed

- Disposable exam gloves
- Size 10 scalpel blade with dulled edge
- Mineral oil
- Glass microscope slides with cover slips
- Microscope with 10X objective
- Revolution Plus for cats
- Sharps box for scalpel blade disposal

Procedures

1. Wear clean exam gloves.
2. Open the animal's medical record in Chameleon.
3. Ensure that the animal's ID neckband and description match the medical record.
4. Weigh cat
5. Perform a superficial skin scrape of the ear margins and face using the size 10 scalpel blade. Multiple scrapes are necessary.
6. Transfer the skin scrapings from the scalpel blade to a drop of mineral oil on a glass microscope slide. Place a cover slip on top of the oil.
7. Examine the entire area under the coverslip with a microscope with the 10X objective.
8. Look for adult mites and eggs. Refer to pictures posted by the microscope. The mites and eggs are typically present in large numbers.
9. Record the skin scrape results in the medical record.
10. **A negative skin scrape does not rule out notoedres infection. If Notoedres is suspected based on clinical signs with intense pruritis, then treat.**

11. Administer Revolution Plus onto the skin between the shoulder blades according to package instructions. Record in the medical record. ***NOTE* All cats receive Revolution Plus at intake and every month while in the shelter - check the medical record to verify this treatment and when it was given. Do not re-apply unless it is has been a month since the last dose.**
12. Start the cat on oral Clavamox according to instructions for the body weight and give twice daily for 14 days. Record in the medical record.
13. Consult with the veterinarian about prescribing the following additional medications
    a. Meloxicam for inflammation
    b. Gabapentin for pain
    c. Triple antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for purulent ocular discharge and eye discomfort
14. Notoedres mange cats should stay in the shelter for at least 2 weeks since the infection is contagious to other cats and can be zoonotic. Most if not all mites are eliminated by 2 weeks after Revolution Plus treatment but it may take another month for resolution of the skin disease.
15. Ensure that a sign indicating “Notoedres mange - do not handle or place near other cats” is placed on the cat’s run.
16. Recheck progress at 1 week, 2 weeks and 4 weeks post treatment. Repeat the skin scrapes at 2 weeks and 4 weeks.
17. Revolution Plus should be re-applied monthly until resolution of the infection.