

Five Question Approach to Dermatology

1. Are they Itchy?

a. No

- i. Is there hair loss?
 1. Big dogs – hypothyroidism
 2. Small dogs Cushing's
 3. Blue or Grey - Color dilution alopecia
- ii. Planum/Pinnae/Pads = pemphigus/Lupus
- iii. Lumps/Bumps/Draining Tracts
 1. infection – bacterial, fungal, parasitic
 2. neoplasia- Round cell tumors (L/M/M/H)
 3. sterile
- iv. Keratinization defects = Vit A def, Sebaceous Adenitis, dysplasia

b. Yes – ask Q 2-5

2. Are most of the symptoms on the front half or back-half of the body?

1. Front-half = Atopy
2. Back-half = Insect or food

3. Do they lick their feet?

1. Yes = 90% Atopy

4. Is there a crusting rash?

- a. Rash with red papules or crusts = folliculitis
 - i. Bacterial Infection – MRSA Risk?
 - ii. Demodex
 - iii. Dermatophyte
- b. Lichenification/Leathery-Elephant skin – yeast infection

5. Do they stink?

- a. Fritos/Beer – yeast
- b. Rot – bacterial

6. Are the ears infected?

- a. Yes = must have Atopy/Food Allergy or Endocrine Dz