

**DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT OF FELINE SCABIES**

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**SUMMARY**

The notoedric mange was reported in 32 domestic cats during the period of six months from January to June 2021 that were presented with signs of alopecia, intense pruritus, scratching, rough hair coat, itchy crust and scales on ears, face and fore limbs since more than two weeks. On laboratory diagnosis, the skin scraping examination revealed positive for notoedric mange. The affected cats were subjected to treatment with scabisol and selamectin spot-on, weekly twice for three weeks. Along with that Vitabest derm syrup containing Omega fatty acids twice daily orally given, significant improvement was noticed after two weeks of treatment.

**Keywords:** Cat, *Notoedres*, Scabies

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Notoedric mange commonly known as feline scabies, which is a contagious disease of cats and kittens but occasionally seen in rabbits and caused by *Notoedres cati*. It occurs chiefly on ears and back of the neck but may extend to the face, paws or even whole body in young cats. Because of its contagious nature and zoonotic importance (Chakrabarti, 1986) treatment and control remains challenging. The present report describes the successful therapeutic management of feline scabies in domestic cats.

Thirty two domestic Persian cats aged between one to five months were presented to Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary Science, Rajendranagar with the history of alopecia, pruritus, rough hair coat for more than two weeks. Treatment by local veterinarians has been not successful and there was recurrence of signs once medication was discontinued. After thorough clinical examination superficial, deep skin scrapings (Soulsby, 1981) were taken separately from different skin lesion sites with 11 inches blunt scalpel blade until the oozing out blood from capillary. Skin scrapings collected from affected areas were heated in 10% KOH in a test tube and centrifuged @ 1000 rpm for 5 minutes. Supernatant was discarded and a drop of the sediment was transferred onto a slide and examined under low power microscope as described by Soulsby (1968). During skin scrapping, sloughing of skin was noticed.

On physical examination common lesions were noticed as thick crusty scabs at tip of the ears, eye, nose, neck forelimbs and tip of the tail (Fig. 1). The clinical examination revealed moderate increase in temperature with emaciation and no other serious abnormalities were observed. Morphological studies revealed circular body, very short legs, pedicels unsegmented and dorsal anus

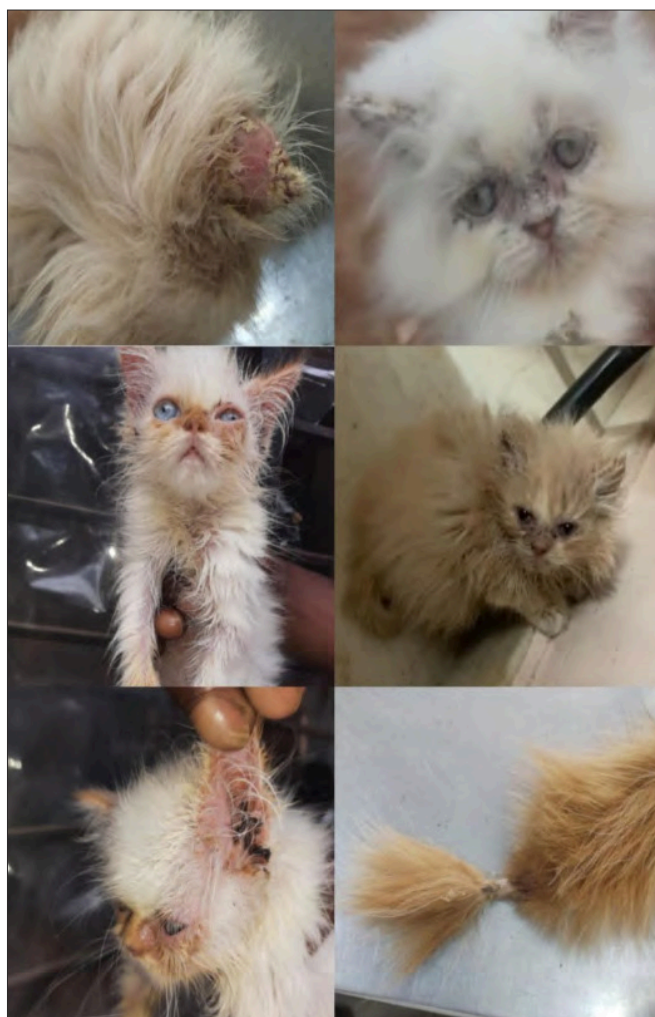


Fig. 1. Thick crusty scabs observed on ears, tail & face, limbs.

confirming *Notoedres cati* (Fig. 2). This differentiates it from *Sarcoptes scabiei*. The examination revealed all stages of *Notoedres cati* (Walker, 1994) mite from ova to adult mite.

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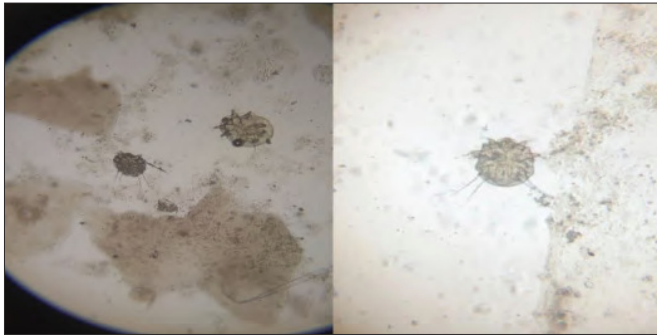


Fig. 2. Microscopic examination of skin scrapping showing Notoedric mite



Fig. 3. 7<sup>th</sup> day of post therapy

The affected cats were subjected to scabisol injection 200 micrograms/kg b.wt, Intramuscularly twice a

week for one month, sulphur dip once a week and selamec spot-on for 30 days interval. Supportive therapy given orally using multivitamins and mineral supplements and vitabest derm containing Omega fatty acids 2 ml orally twice daily for 30 days. Subsequent to treatment for two weeks skin scrapings were found negative and there was improvement in clinical signs with regrowth of hair (Fig. 3).

Notoedric mange is a highly contagious disease of cats. The first sign is usually intense pruritis along with crusty and scabby appearance to skin especially tip of the ears which then progresses to face, neck and other parts of body particularly feet and genital areas (Griffin *et al.*, 1993). In this present clinical study, similar lesions were observed except the genital areas. In cats, scabies is characterized by cutaneous lesions on the ears, face or neck and extreme pruritus (Kumar *et al.*, 2008). In this present clinical study similar lesions were reported. Notoedric mange results from allergic reaction of host's body against mite extracellular products and also mechanical damage from burrowing activity by parasite. Muller and Durden (2002) reported that humans occasionally become infected with Notoedric mange on prolong exposure to infected cats. Outdoor cats were more infected than indoor cats. So, the prevention can be done by preventing healthy cats coming in contact with stray or infected cats.

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