How to help patients kick the lick habit

By Somyr McLean Perry
For The Education Center

For behavioral disorders in companion animals frustrate veterinary practitioners and pet owners more than acral lick dermatitis.

Traditional treatment and prevention methods, such as behavioral modification drugs, Elizabethan collars and topical spray deterrents, don’t always work for every patient.

Yolan Friedmann owns an 8-year-old 110-pound Anatolian shepherd with severe lick granulomas on his right hind leg.

“We exhausted all options for him, all to no avail,” said Friedmann, who lives in South Africa.

Terry Arver, DVM, product specialist for MAI Animal Health in Elmwood, Wis., empathizes with owners like Friedmann, who was one inspiration for the development of StopLik Lick Deterrent.

“A behavioral modification product was necessary to not only assist in healing the lesion, but also to address the psychological component of this disease,” Arver said. “Also, a product was needed to help the patient live a less restrictive lifestyle while being treated for acral lick dermatitis.”

Dr. Arver said. “Also, a product was needed to help the patient stop menacing the wound area.

Friedmann said StopLik was a lifesaver for her pet’s condition because it helps her dog control his own behavior without intervention from outside sources.

“Devices and lotions simply make him more angry and increase the intensity of his obsession with the leg. StopLik does no harm because long-term drug use (which did not work anyway), and treats the problem at its source,” she said.

Brian Dingman, product manager for StopLik, said he’s heard similar stories from veterinary professionals.

“Many times I have heard from veterinarians and pet owners that it ‘bit back.’

StopLik is an ingenius invention; so simple and so clever. The dog learns to control its own behavior, as you are not modifying it for them. I cannot see why it is not standard protocol for wound healing, as it is more effective and kinder than bucket collars, etc.

StopLik has other important applications for hospital and surgical sites, sutures and open wounds on the torso.

StopLik technology, is designed to prevent pets from bothering surgical sites, sutures and open wounds on the torso.

StopLik has been Joe’s only remedy for his lick granuloma for five years. It started after an illness with suspected canine distemper, when he developed an internal pressure sore that irritated his leg. Joe began licking his leg incessantly.

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Previous treatments: Joe’s leg was x-rayed, magnetic resonance images were taken, and surgical sites, sutures and open wounds on the torso.

StopLik wrap dry by covering it with a plastic bag under optimal conditions, which include keeping the wound dry and covered.

The product can last longer—up to three weeks—under optimal conditions, which include keeping the StopLik wrap dry by covering it with a plastic bag when the animal goes outside.

MAI Animal Health reports an 80 percent success rate in dogs and even higher success rate in cats, and positive feedback from practitioners in the field.

Arver agreed with Dingman, and said that veterinarians appreciate that the product addresses the psychological element of the lick granuloma disease process.

“Until the habitual behavior of self-mutilation is addressed and modified, the chances for a favorable long-term prognosis are greatly reduced,” Arver said.

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