



Chesapeake Veterinary Dermatology Associates



Itch Grading Scale*

Score	Descriptor
Grade 0	Normal dog itch: The dog does not itch more than before the disease began.
Grade 1	Occasional episodes of itching: Small increase in itch compared with before the disease began.
Grade 2	More frequent episodes of itching: The itching stops when the dog is sleeping, eating, playing or exercising or is otherwise distracted.
Grade 3	Frequent episodes of itching: Regular episodes of itching are seen when the dog is awake. The dog occasionally wakes up because of itching but itching stops when the dog is eating, playing or exercising or otherwise distracted.
Grade 4	Prolonged episodes of itching: Lengthening episodes of itching are seen when the when the dog is awake. The dog regularly wakes up because of itching, or itches in its sleep. The itching can also be seen when the dog is eating, playing or exercising or otherwise distracted.
Grade 5	Almost continuous itching: The itch does not stop when the dog is distracted, even in the consultation room; the dog needs to be physically restrained from itching.

*Adapted from *Veterinary Dermatology* 2005, 16, 162 -170. Colombo S, *et al.*