

Prevalence and Therapeutic Effect of Topical Application with Selamectin on Cheyletiellosis in Pet Rabbits

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Cheyletiellosis is a very common infestation in pet rabbits that causes dermatosis with pruritus and dandruff, and is considered to be an important zoonotic ectoparasite in domestic animals and humans. This study investigated the prevalence of cheyletiellosis in pet rabbits at the local animal hospital from June 2006 to March 2007. 57/102 rabbits (55.9%) were infested with cheyletiellosis. In addition, this study investigated relationship between sex, ages and clinical signs.

Among 102 rabbits, a total 23 rabbits with cheyletiellosis were treated with a single dermal application of selamectin at a dose of 12 mg/kg. All the rabbits were examined at 3 and 5 weeks after treatment. The microscopic evaluation of the epidermal debris after the dermal application with selamectin revealed a therapeutic effect in 22 rabbits at 3 weeks and in all rabbits at 5 weeks without any adverse reaction. This indicates that selamectin is an effective treatment for cheyletiellosis in rabbits.

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