

## *Sebaceous adenitis or inflammation of the sebaceous glands*

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Inflammation of the sebaceous glands is an inherited autoimmune disease that can affect rabbits. The first symptoms are close to those of skin allergy: inflamed sebaceous gland with progressive destruction of those glands and the adjacent hair follicles. With time, hair growth will stop and alopecia is observed. Secondary bacterial infection is often observed.



Sarah Davoli

**Older rabbit suffering from sebaceous adenitis**



### Diagnosis

Inflammation of the sebaceous glands is regularly wrongly diagnosed as skin allergy and is thus inappropriately treated. Other skin problem will often only be considered, when the proposed skin allergy treatment fails to bring an improvement. It is therefore important to do a biopsy of the skin, and have it analyzed by a dermatopathologist.

### Treatment

There is no treatment for sebaceous gland inflammation, except good care. In dogs, this problem is treated by washing him with a stronger laundry powder twice a week/month, clean its skin with a chlorhexiderm solution after the shampooing, and, after the bath, rub the skin with baby oil. This helps lose the skin dandruff and brings the necessary fat to the skin. A regular brushing also helps to remove the dandruff, which is a source of secondary bacterial infection.

If a bacterial infection is observed, it should be treated with the appropriate antibiotics and an antiseptic cream.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sarah Davoli, for sharing the pictures of her rabbit, suffering from confirmed sebaceous adenitis.

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