



## **ACUTE MOIST DERMATITIS** **“Hot Spots”**

**Acute Moist Dermatitis** is often called “Hot Spots.” This condition causes a very painful, inflamed area of skin, usually with a bad discharge and odor. It is thought to be an allergic reaction to a bacterial skin infection. Lesions often spread rapidly to surrounding skin.

Underlying causes of this condition often involve poor hygiene, seasonal allergies, flea bites, inflamed anal glands, ear infection, or other injuries to the skin. These lesions then become infected by bacteria found on the normal hair. Normal, healthy skin is usually very resistant to this condition until the skin is somehow damaged.

You can help prevent hot spots with good grooming practices. On long haired dogs, brushing thoroughly to remove matts before bathing will keep moisture from remaining in contact with the skin and reduce the chance of a hot spot developing. Good flea and tick control will also help. Other causes of hot spots need to be diagnosed and treated medically.