

## SCATTERED SKIN LESIONS IN NEUTERED CATS

Q.: What is the likely cause of scattered skin lesions which commence as moist eruptions that scab and peel, leaving denuded and roughened areas in adult, usually neutered, cats? What is your recommended therapy?—R, Canada.

A.: This condition might well be called exudative eczematoid dermatosis. Blood examinations indicate that some cases may be allergic in origin because an excessive number of eosinophils is present. The flea and certain foods have been considered capable of causing such allergic reactions. Alterations in blood cholesterol levels in some cases indicate that dysfunction of the thyroid gland may occasionally be responsible, at least in part. The dramatic improvement associated with the use of corticosteroids indicates that adrenal insufficiency also is related to the causative mechanism of this syndrome. Treatment should be initiated with medicated bath, preferably given with the cat under sedation or general anesthesia. Selenium sulfide is an excellent preparation for this purpose. Corticosteroids then are administered for a period of 4-6 weeks. This medication is given s.c. for 2-3 doses and con-

tinued with tablets at the lowest dosage which controls licking. The addition of polyunsaturated oils to the diet appears to be beneficial. The owners should be advised that recurrence is common.—Robert L. Stansbury, DVM, Pasadena, California.