

When Casey, a West Highland White Terrier, developed skin problems, owner Wendy Mathews became frantic. Eleven-year-old Casey developed nasty red sores on his stomach which itched and inflamed the area.

For two months, Casey travelled to and from the vets and tried a multitude of tablets and treatments, but to no avail. Skin scrapes were taken, but revealed nothing. Everyone was at a loss to explain what was the matter. "My vets are highly respected and well recommended," says Wendy, from Reading, Berkshire. "I have been with them for 18 years and it was very frustrating, for both them and me, not to find an answer."

Two months of scratching left Casey in a terrible state. He had torn out lumps of fur and skin, leaving red, raw patches. His legs were bare and his tail was almost devoid of fur. Casey also stopped eating and began to lose weight.

"He was covered in bare patches," says Wendy, "and he was as light as a feather." Casey no longer resembled the loving and trusting pet he had once been.

Wendy persevered in trying to treat Casey, often staying up all night with him, trying to ease his distress by smoothing cream on his sore patches.

"To say I was worried sick is the understatement of the year," says Wendy. "When Casey wasn't scratching, he lay down quite exhausted and was no longer interested in anything."

Finally, after three months, Casey saw a skin specialist and discovered he had sarcoptic mange. "At the time of diagnosis, Casey was a very unwell little Westie," recalls Wendy. "He had no fur and had ripped the flesh on his legs, bottom and side."

Casey was prescribed a sponge-on treatment as the only licensed product for treatment of this disease. With this treatment, Casey



GRASS ROOTS

Treating your dog with modern medicine isn't always the answer. Sometimes traditional cures work just as well – or better

OLIVIA WARREN

would have to be soaked and left out to dry. Being an elderly dog suffering from chronic arthritis, this was not a very practical solution.

Wendy was very disheartened as she could see Casey was becoming dispirited. She decided anything was worth a try.

"I turned to your magazine and rang Mrs Corri – one of the *Dogs Today Dial-a-Dog* breed advisors on Westies," says Wendy. "She knew so much about Westies and the terrible problems they can have, especially when parasites invade."

Mrs Corri recommended an old herbal remedy made up by a company called Bob Grass. A contemporary in early veterinary work in the 1900s, Bob Grass made traditional cures which are reproduced today by the Bob Grass company. Wendy used Skincure and No. 19 White Dog Blood Tablets on Casey to try to help his mange.

Skincure is an ointment used in the treatment of cases of mange,

eczema, rashes and other skin problems. It can be used on dogs, cats, horses and many other animals. No. 19 White Dog Blood Tablets are used in conjunction with Skincure to cool and purify the blood. This is very beneficial to dogs who bite and scratch themselves due to irritation. The ingredients of these products are natural and harmless.

Casey began treatment with the Bob Grass remedy immediately. He was given one No. 19 tablet daily for three weeks and ointment was also applied to Casey's fur once a day.

"I had to be extremely diligent to make sure all his skin and fur were covered," says Wendy. "Casey turned grey with the treatment, but was white again afterwards."

Within 36 hours, Casey showed signs of improvement and his constant scratching slowed down. The results really began to show after four days, and half-way through treatment, his eyes became brighter and he started to take an interest in his surroundings.

After 10 days, Wendy bathed Casey with Bob Grass dog shampoo, which is a specially formulated mild shampoo. Wendy was delighted when Casey developed a healthy sheen.

CURIOUS CURE

Best of all, his itching has ceased and he no longer suffers raw and broken skin. "I cannot believe that something can be so simple and yet so effective," says Wendy. Considering Casey had been suffering for four months with severe mange, he has made a remarkable recovery.

"I am normally very cynical," says Wendy, "but I was amazed at the results. It really does do what it says it will." Casey's coat is now growing thick and lush again and he has even had a visit from his groomer.

*For More Details and a Price Leaflet
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Website www.bobgrass.co.uk*

At last, hair of the dog

Oil

It may not look much, but Kass the bald King Charles spaniel is happy to show off her shaggy tufts of hair.

Owner Wendy Sutor has spent £2,500 on vets bills, wacky potions and skin creams since her beloved pet lost her luxurious coat of fur two years ago.

Now, thanks to a £3.70 pot of cream, Kass has sprouted her first few hairs.

The cream was among hundreds of remedies sent in by animal lovers who read of ten-year-old Kass's plight in the Western Daily Press.

Mrs Sutor, aged 32, from Withywood, Bristol, said: "The woman who sent it said it would grow hairs on a brick, so I tried it.

"I couldn't believe it when the hairs started to grow. You spend £2,500 on vets and treatments and the answer is in a £3.70 pot of cream!"

The not-so-shaggy dog story began in April 1993, when Kass's fur dropped out.

Numerous trips to the vet followed, but despite suggestions of a thyroid problem, no diagnosis was made.

Mrs Sutor tried every skincare product she could buy and even tried Kass on special diets of tuna, boiled rice and chicken.

"I had her biopsies sent to clinics in Canada and America, but they couldn't find anything either.

"We've had 1,000 letters from all over the country, and a woman even rang from New York.

"People have suggested putting used car oil on her or urine. I didn't try those, but I did use everything else like evening primrose oil and vitamin tablets"

Mrs Sutor started using Bob Grass's skincure cream twice a week eight months ago and after two weeks the first hairs started to grow.

Now Kass has hairs on her ears and back and downy baby fluff all over her body.

"She seems so much happier now and her skin is so smooth, where before it was like elephant skin," said Mrs Sutor.

"There was no way I was going to give up on her because she is a wonderful dog, but it has cost us a fortune. I'm just pleased everything is turning out right at last."