

Schnauzer Comedo Syndrome (Schnauzer Back)

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Although other breeds may be involved, this condition is typically seen in Miniature Schnauzers, suggesting a genetic predisposition.

What are the symptoms?

Generally the area along the spine is the most affected. Raised, black, crusty bumps will develop all along the back area. These may reach the size of up to one inch in diameter. Patchy hair loss will be evident and the skin may become thickened and red. In some dogs, the skin takes on an oily nature with a strong odor.

What are the risks?

Although not life threatening, this condition affects the appearance and smell of the animal.

What is the management?

Treatment is aimed at managing the condition. Comedo syndrome usually persists in varying degrees for the life of the pet. Medicated shampoos such as benzoyl peroxide work well and should be used on a regular basis, often at least weekly. If a secondary bacterial infection develops, antibiotics may be given. Although not usually curable, the condition can be successfully managed.

