



Always consult with a veterinarian that you feel comfortable with before diagnosing or treating any disease on your own. This information is for reference only.

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## Squamous Cell Carcinoma

### Issue Description

*Squamous cells are the cells that make up most of the skin, so squamous cell carcinoma refers to an abnormal growth of these cells. Squamous cell carcinoma is usually developed in the epithelial layer of the skin and sometimes in various mucous membranes of the body. This type of cancer can be seen on the skin, lips, inside the mouth, throat or esophagus. This type of cancer is characterized by red, scaly skin that becomes an open sore.*

### Other Names

SCC

### Causes

Risk factors include:

- Sun exposure
- Radiation therapy
- Exposure to carcinogens
- Chronic skin irritation or inflammation
- Genetic diseases
- Presence of premalignant lesions

Breeds Commonly Affected

- Shih Tzus
- Standard Poodles
- Mastiffs
- Basset Hounds
- Blood Hounds

### Symptoms

Squamous cell carcinomas commonly arise in non-pigmented, either sparsely-haired or un-haired skin. It is most commonly seen as a result of sun damage.

The lesion looks like a raw ulcer or non-healing sore. This dog skin cancer is locally aggressive but rarely spreads until later in the course of the disease.

### Diagnosis

To be diagnosed, a biopsy is done where a sample is taken and examined under a microscope.

### Treatment

Surgical removal is the treatment of choice. Where surgery is incomplete or not possible, radiation can be used. Limiting exposure to the sun may help prevent sun-induced squamous cell carcinomas.

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