

FELINE ACNE

Understanding, Treating & Preventing Blackheads and Chin Pimples in Cats

Feline acne is a common, usually mild skin condition that causes blackheads, bumps or crusts on your cat's chin. It can affect cats of any age and is often easily managed with good skincare and prevention.

Early care can prevent flare-ups and keep your cat comfortable.

FELINE ACNE
IS COMMON
AND TREATABLE
WITH SIMPLE,
CONSISTENT
CARE.



? WHAT IS FELINE ACNE?

Feline acne is an inflammation of the hair follicles on the chin. It occurs when oil, dirt and dead skin clog the pores, leading to blackheads, red bumps or crusts. It is not contagious.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

- Many cats have mild acne without being bothered by it.
- Stainless steel or ceramic bowls can help prevent flare-ups.
- Stress, hygiene and allergies may contribute in some cats.



1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- Blackheads on the chin
- Red pimples or small bumps
- Crusts or scabs
- Oily or dirty-looking chin
- Scratching or rubbing the face

May be mild or more severe in some cats.



2 WHAT CAUSES FELINE ACNE?

Common causes and contributing factors include:

- Overproduction of oil
- Bacteria on the skin
- Poor hygiene of food/water bowls
- Plastic bowls (can harbour bacteria)
- Stress or allergies
- Hormonal factors in some cats

It is often a combination of factors.

3 WHICH CATS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Feline acne can affect any cat, but may be more common in:

- Young adult cats
- Cats with oily skin
- Cats using plastic bowls
- Cats under stress
- Cats with allergies or other skin issues



4 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian will:

- Examine your cat's chin and skin
- Rule out other skin diseases
- Check for infections if needed
- Discuss diet, bowls and environment

Diagnosis is usually based on clinical signs.



5 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment depends on severity and your cat's needs.

May include:

- Gentle cleansing
- Topical antibacterial treatments
- Antiseptic wipes
- Medicated gels or ointments
- Oral antibiotics (if needed)
- Anti-inflammatory medications

Never use human acne medications on your cat.



6 AT-HOME CARE

You can help manage feline acne by:

- Cleaning the chin gently (as advised by your vet)
- Using stainless steel or ceramic bowls
- Washing bowls daily
- Keeping the chin area dry and clean
- Avoiding harsh soaps

Consistency is key to preventing flare-ups.



7 PREVENTION TIPS

Reduce the risk of feline acne by:

- Using stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowls
- Washing bowls daily
- Keeping your cat's chin clean and dry
- Managing stress
- Feeding a balanced diet
- Addressing allergies early



8 WHEN TO SEE YOUR VET

Contact your veterinarian if your cat:

- Has persistent or worsening acne
- Has swelling, pain or pus
- Is excessively scratching
- Develops sores or hair loss
- Is not improving with home care

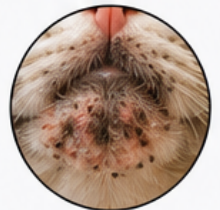
Early treatment prevents discomfort and complications.



9 COMPLICATIONS (IF UNTREATED)

If left untreated, feline acne can lead to:

- Bacterial infections
- Pain and discomfort
- Scabs and sores
- Hair loss on the chin
- Chronic skin inflammation



QUICK CARE TIPS

- Use stainless steel or ceramic bowls.
- Wash bowls daily.
- Clean chin gently.
- Avoid harsh soaps.
- Monitor and seek advice early.



EVERY CAT COUNTS

Feline acne is common, but it doesn't have to cause discomfort. With the right care and prevention, most cats do very well.

If you have concerns about your cat's skin, speak with your veterinarian.

