

Sarcoids Factsheet

Update April 2020



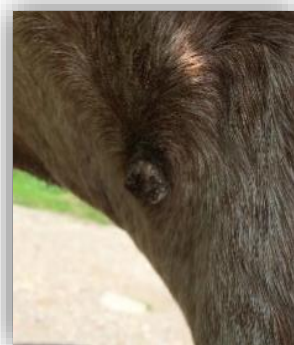
A sarcoid is a tumour of the skin, it invades the tissues around it but doesn't spread to distant sites (metastasise). There are 6 recognised types of sarcoid, though a sarcoid can change type over time.

Types of Sarcoid

Occult: these sarcoids look like a flat, hairless areas of skin, they are often roughly circular, and can be grey and scaly, though this is not always the case.



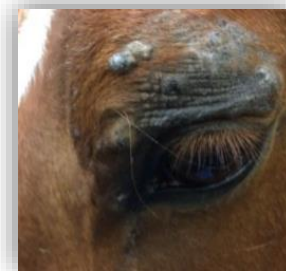
Verrucose: As the name suggests these are warty looking lesions and can be a progression from an occult sarcoid.



Nodular: A firm, usually spherical mass, which may be non-attached to the overlying skin (type A) or may be connected to the skin – evident either visually or by feeling (type B).



Fibroblastic: These masses appear angry and ulcerative, and often become infected. They may have discharge and will readily bleed if knocked.



Mixed: no obvious predominant type, this may be a transitional stage e.g. an occult sarcoid becoming verrucous.

Malignant: This is a rare form of sarcoid and may result from aggravation of a sarcoid by repeated interference/ineffective treatment.

Treatment Options

The best treatment depends on the type, extent, and location of the sarcoid and should always be decided by your veterinary surgeon. Treatment options include ligation or 'banding', surgical excision, laser surgery, immunotherapy, chemotherapy – such as AW5 aka Liverpool cream, and radiation therapy.

Prognosis

Though we manage to cure many sarcoids, all types are prone to recurrence. Unsuccessful treatment attempts are likely to make resolution more difficult, and we therefore advocate using the best financially affordable option in the first instance.

For this reason, it is VERY important not to attempt treatment yourself, or based on recommendations from anyone other than your vet.

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DO

- Have any suspicious skin lesions seen ASAP by your veterinary surgeon
- Avoid touching/putting anything on the sarcoid
- Minimise fly irritation – fly repellent can be used near the area but not directly on it

DON'T

- Attempt treatment yourself or by anyone other than a vet
 - Delay attention from your vet - getting the correct treatment as soon as possible vastly improves outcome
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