

## Solving Dog's Skin Problems Is Expensive

**After costly treatment, dog needs a dermatology specialist.**

*Jon Geller, DVM*

Q. My 5-year-old Akita has some kind of skin rash or infection with white scales. My regular vet's solution was to shave his coat down, give him several medicated baths, and antibiotics. This cost \$1,000. Now his answer is to see a dermatologist. What should I do?

A. Skin rashes and infections can be very frustrating for dog owners and veterinarians alike. Dog owners can be faced with some significant financial challenges, not to mention an itchy, scratching, uncomfortable pet.

For a simple solution to Zorro's problem, try giving him a twice a week bath using Selsen-Blue Shampoo. This shampoo is selenium-based, and works well with people that have dandruff. It is safe to use on dogs.

If this does not help, a visit to a veterinary dermatologist may be necessary. As mentioned earlier, you should plan on some repeat visits, and take your credit card. You may need to create a new category in your household budget, "Zorro's skin disease." A sense of humor will help get you and Zorro through what may be a prolonged, even life-long, treatment regimen.