

# BLUE BUFFALO CASE STUDY

## Shih Tzu with Severe Dermatitis

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**Signalment:** Ziggy, an 8-year-old, male/castrated Shih Tzu dog

Managed with:

**HF** Hydrolyzed for Food Intolerance

**Figure 1.** Day one of feeding BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet® HF shows presenting lumbar alopecia



**Figure 2.** Eight weeks after feeding BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet® HF shows new hair growth beginning and skin condition improving



**HISTORY:** Patient presented with extreme skin irritation and excessive scratching. Previous owners relinquished Ziggy to a shelter, reporting that he had suffered skin issues his entire life and his condition was getting worse.

### INITIAL FINDINGS

- Severe dermatitis with pustules and bleeding on 90% of entire body
- Total alopecia excluding head, tail and distal front limbs
- Severe bilateral ear infection
- Laboratory evaluation showed increased white blood cell count (25,000) and low free T4 (<0.3 ng/dl or < 3.9 pmol/L)
- Skin scrape: 4+ cocci, 4+ yeast
- Skin biopsies: allergic dermatitis with secondary pyoderma

### DIAGNOSIS

- Allergic dermatitis
- Secondary pyoderma
- Ear infection
- Hypothyroidism

### MANAGEMENT

- Otic suspension with miconazole nitrate, polymyxin B sulfate and prednisolone acetate AU BID for 2 weeks
- L-thyroxine .2mg BID
- Amoxicillin and Clavulanic acid, 12.5 mg per kg BID for 2 weeks
- Ketoconazole 100 mg SID
- Omega-3 small breed supplement SID
- Trimeprazine prednisolone ½ tablet, once or twice daily, as needed
- Oclacitinib 3.6 mg tablet SID (started 5 months post-diagnosis)
- Blue Buffalo Natural Veterinary Diet® HF Hydrolyzed for Food Intolerance formula (started 7 months post-diagnosis)

See Figure 1. Day one

### INITIAL RECHECK (30 days after starting BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet HF)

- Less scratching but no new hair growth
- No pustules or scabs

### RESULTS AFTER 8 WEEKS (after starting BLUE HF)

- Only occasional scratching
- New hair growing in
- Skin is soft

See Figure 2. Eight weeks

### CLIENT COMMENTS

"Ziggy loves his new food! His skin has improved greatly since he started eating it (BLUE Natural Veterinary Diet® HF Hydrolyzed for Food Intolerance)!"

