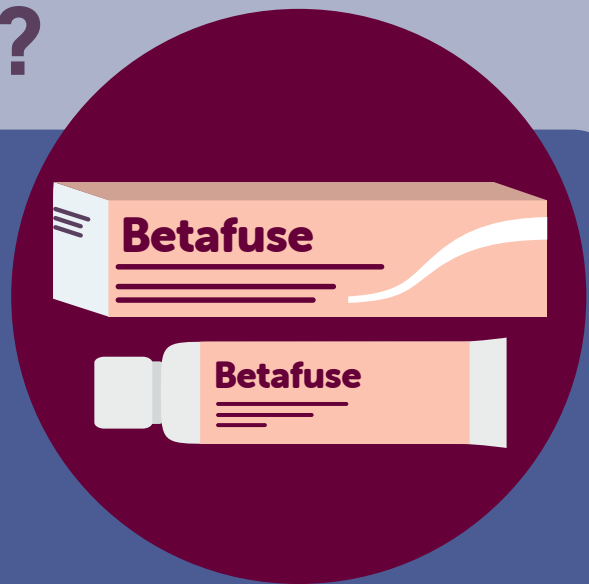


Why has my dog been prescribed **Betafuse**[®]?

Betafuse[®] gel for dogs contains 1mg/g betamethasone valerate, a corticosteroid known to give relief from **inflammation and itching** and 5mg/g fusidic acid, a first-line topical antibiotic for **bacterial infections**.

Topical antibiotic preparations act at a high concentration where it is needed rather than exposing the whole body to the drug.

Betafuse is indicated to treat small areas of **acute surface pyoderma**.



Pyoderma is an infection of the skin that can occur in varying layers of the skin such as surface, superficial or deep pyoderma. Many dogs suffer with episodes of surface pyoderma which can occur in two forms: **acute moist dermatitis (hotspots)** and **skin fold dermatitis (intertrigo)**.

Acute moist dermatitis (a hot spot) is usually created by the repeated licking or chewing activity of the dog. This is often prompted by itches caused by common complaints such as ear disease, full anal sacs, fleas or allergies. Dogs transfer bacteria from their mouth or nose to the skin as they lick and chew.

Commonly affected breeds include:

- Golden Retrievers
- Newfoundlands
- German Shepherds
- Bernese Mountain Dogs

Skin fold dermatitis (intertrigo) occurs where folds of skin cause a warm, moist environment that is the perfect environment for bacteria to grow. This can affect certain breeds which have skin wrinkles or face folds. Skin fold dermatitis can also occur in females that have had multiple litters and dogs suffering from obesity.

Commonly affected breeds include:

- Spaniels with lip folds
- Pekingese, Pugs, and Bulldogs with facial fold pyoderma due to wrinkles on face
- Shar Pei and other breeds with loose skin folds

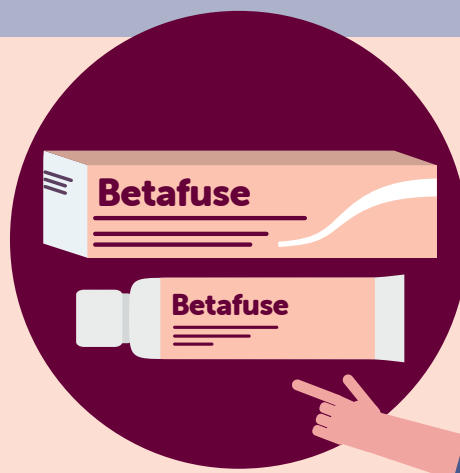
Superficial pyoderma is usually a secondary condition caused by an underlying issue. In order to ensure successful long-term treatment, your vet may try to identify the initial cause and run further tests if necessary.

Underlying causes can include:

- environmental triggers or allergies
- skin parasites, such as fleas, lice, mites
- skin trauma, irritation or scratches
- poor grooming or hygiene



- ✓ **It is important that you apply Betafuse correctly.** Your vet may have clipped or trimmed the hair from the affected area.
- ✓ **Wash the affected area** every day with antiseptic solution. Dry thoroughly afterwards.
- ✓ **Apply Betafuse to the affected area twice daily in a thin layer (about 0.5 cm length of gel).** Use protective gloves. Wash your hands after application.
- ✓ **Try to prevent your dog from licking the area** immediately after treatment. You can try to distract your dog by going for a walk, playing or feeding. If licking persists, speak to your vet about an “Elizabethan” collar.
- ✓ **Continue treatment for 5-7 days** or as recommended by your vet. If there is no visible improvement within three days, speak to your veterinary surgeon.



Some patients may suffer recurring surface pyoderma. Some simple steps have been found to improve long term success: ensure bedding is clean and dry; keep your pet free from skin parasites; seek advice on grooming and cleaning your pet’s skin fold.

Your vet may also be able to investigate and treat the **underlying disease.** This may include follow up tests such as:

You have been provided this information because your veterinary surgeon has prescribed Betafuse.



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