How itchy is your dog?

This scale is designed to measure the severity of itching in dogs. Itching can include scratching, biting, licking, chewing, nibbling or rubbing. Read all the descriptions below starting at the bottom. Then use a marker pen to place a mark anywhere on the vertical line that runs down the left hand side to indicate the point at which you think your dog’s level of itchiness lies.

10 – Extremely severe itching / almost continuous
Itching doesn’t stop whatever is happening, even in the consulting room (needs to be physically restrained from itching)

9 – Severe itching / prolonged episodes
Itching might occur at night (if observed) and also when eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

8 – Moderate itching / regular episodes
Itching might occur at night (if observed), but not when eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

7 – Mild itching / a bit more frequent
Wouldn’t itch when sleeping, eating, playing, exercising or being distracted

6 – Very mild itching / only occasional episodes
The dog is slightly more itchy than it was before the skin problem started

0 – Normal dog – I don’t think itching is a problem

Courtesy of Dr. Peter Hill, et al. Canine Pruritis Scale PVAS.