Skin diseases in companion guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*): a retrospective study of 293 cases seen at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California at Davis (1990–2015)

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Background – Guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*) are popular companion animals with reported skin diseases, but most reports are accessed from textbooks or review articles.

Hypothesis/Objectives – To document skin diseases and their prevalence in companion guinea pigs in northern California, USA, and to investigate predilections for the most common conditions over a 25 year period.

Animals – Two hundred and ninety three guinea pigs from the hospital population met inclusion criteria.

Methods – A retrospective study was performed by searching computerized medical records seen at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California from 1 January 1990 to 31 July 2015 using key words relevant to dermatology.

Results – Of the 580 guinea pigs seen at the VMTH, 50% (293) had skin disease. Of the 293 cases, 154 (52%) presented for nondermatological reasons. Guinea pigs with skin disease were significantly older than those without skin disease (*P* = 0.0002); females with skin disease were more likely to have cystic ovaries (*P* = 0.0203), although these were not always associated with alopecia. Pododermatitis and infestation with *Trixacarus caviae* or lice were the most common skin diseases. Ivermectin or selamectin was used for ectoparasite treatment. Abscesses unassociated with pododermatitis were the most common nodules. Benign follicular tumours were the most common neoplasm. Despite the frequent mention of dermatophytosis in the veterinary literature, only two cases of *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* were diagnosed.

Conclusions and clinical importance – Cutaneous conditions in companion guinea pigs in the USA are common. Clinicians should include a dermatological examination when examining these rodents regardless of the reason for presentation.

Introduction

Guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*) are common companion animals in many countries. A number of textbooks and review articles have discussed the various skin diseases affecting this South American rodent.1–4 The purpose of this report is to document skin diseases and their prevalence in companion guinea pigs in northern California, USA, and to investigate predilections for the most common conditions over a 25 year period.

Materials and methods

Case selection

The computerized medical records of guinea pigs seen at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis (VMTH-SVM) from 1 January 1990 to 1 July 2015 were searched using the following key words: ‘skin’ or ‘dermatitis’ or ‘pododermatitis’. If upon review the record confirmed that the guinea pig was affected with skin disease, the animal was included in the study. A spreadsheet was then created that included: the age, gender and breed of each guinea pig; the type of skin disease(s) and treatment; and biopsy or necropsy findings pertinent to the skin disease. Owing to the retrospective nature of the study, complete information was not available for every case. In the majority of cases, pododermatitis was classified either into mild, moderate or severe, or a corresponding numerical 5-point grading scale as I (mild), II, III (moderate) or IV, V (severe). Pododermatitis cases involving plantar and/or palmar surfaces were categorized (when noted) using the following general clinical guidelines: mild cases exhibited alopecia, erythema and scaling; moderate cases exhibited alopecia, erythema, scaling, crusting, moderate swelling, thinning of the skin and erosions; severe cases exhibited ulcers, severe swelling and occasionally abscesses, and/or evidence of osteomyelitis in conjunction with the previously described lesions.

Statistical analysis

The chi-square test was used to determine any statistically significant difference between guinea pigs with and without skin disease, with
regard to gender, neuter status, presence of obesity and presence of cystic ovaries. The Mann–Whitney U-test was used to determine any statistically significant differences between guinea pigs with and without skin disease with regard to age. A probability \( P < 0.05 \) was considered significant. The software used was StatXact–10 (Cytel Software Corporation; Cambridge, MA, USA).

**Results**

A total of 580 guinea pigs were presented to the VMTH during the 25 year period. Of those, 293 met the inclusion criteria. Therefore, 50.5% [95% confidence interval (CI) = 46.4–54.7%] of all guinea pigs examined had a dermatological problem. Of the 293 dermatology cases, 94 had a primary veterinarian listed in the medical record. Interestingly, 154 (52.6%) (95% CI = 46.7–58.4%) were presented for nondermatological reasons (the owners were not aware of the skin disease). Of the 287 guinea pigs without skin disease, 95 had a primary veterinarian listed in the medical record.

The median ± age range of guinea pigs with skin disease \((n = 264)\) was 3 years (1.5 months–10 years) and that of guinea pigs without skin disease \((n = 259)\) was 2 years (4 days–8 years), with 29 and 28 guinea pigs (respectively) not having an age noted in the medical records. Guinea pigs with skin disease were statistically significantly older than those without skin disease \((P = 0.0002)\).

Of the 290 guinea pigs with skin disease that had their gender noted, 150 were males (23 neutered) and 140 were females (12 ovariohysterectomized). Of the 279 guinea pigs without skin disease that had their gender noted, 155 were males (38 neutered) and 124 were females (7 ovariohysterectomized). There was no significant statistical difference between the gender of the guinea pigs with skin disease and those without \((P = 0.356)\) or between males versus females or the neuter status of the males and females \((P = 0.125)\).

Eight breeds were represented, but only 18 guinea pigs had their breed noted, thus statistical evaluation for disease predilection was not performed. The most common breed noted was the Abyssinian \((n = 5)\).

The most common clinical signs were alopecia \((n = 71)\), pruritus \((n = 56)\), scale \((n = 56)\) and crusts \((n = 25)\). Interestingly, specific note was made that in 23 guinea pigs affected with scale, the colour of the scales was black. This was not associated with any particular diagnosis.

A diagnosis was obtained for 85.3% (95% CI = 80.7–89.2%) of the guinea pigs affected with skin disease (Table 1). Depending on the disease, the diagnosis was confirmed based on the clinical signs \((n = 214)\), skin scraping \((n = 39)\), cytology \((n = 4)\), fungal culture \((n = 2)\), histopathological findings from skin biopsies \((n = 15)\) and/ or at necropsy \((n = 34)\).

Several disease conditions were diagnosed more frequently and evaluated in more detail. Pododermatitis was the most common skin condition with 128 cases (43.7%) (95% CI = 37.9–49.6%) recorded: these were classified as mild (76), moderate (18) and severe (eight) (Figure 1), whereas 27 cases could not be classified from the information available. All four feet were affected in 42 guinea pigs; only the front feet in 19 and only the rear feet in 28,

### Table 1. Diagnosed skin diseases and case numbers for guinea pigs presented over a 25 year time period (1990–2015) to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skin condition</th>
<th>No. of cases (%)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pododermatitis</td>
<td>128 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichocapsula caviae infestation</td>
<td>21 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lice infestation</td>
<td>18 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess (not on feet)</td>
<td>8 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous mass (not biopsied)</td>
<td>11 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cystic ovaries concurrent with nonpruritic alopecia</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichoepithelioma/trichofolliculoma/follicular cyst</td>
<td>7 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipoma</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyoderma</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammary carcinoma</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malassezia dermatitis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choriocarcinoma caviae infestation</td>
<td>2 (&lt;1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatophytosis Trichophyton mentagrophytes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft tissue sarcoma</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelitis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myiasis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otitis externa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal cell tumour</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collagenous hamartoma (nevus)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous lymphoma</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammary papillary cystadenoma</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular hamartoma</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that a guinea pig could have more than one diagnosis.

*Percentage of total number of guinea pigs with skin disease (293).

with one front and one rear foot in eight cases. In 14 cases only one foot was affected and in 29 cases the feet involved were not recorded. Three guinea pigs had radiographic evidence of osteomyelitis and another had abscesses associated with the pododermatitis.

Multiple treatment options included changing the substrate of the cage to a softer material, soaking the feet in chlorhexidine, applying silver sulfadiazine cream and weight loss. There were too few follow-up appointments to suggest that any one treatment or combination of treatments were the best protocol. However, two guinea pigs’ pododermatitis improved from a score of III/V (moderate) to I/V (mild) on follow-up. In one case this was affected by applying petrolatum and using tramadol for pain management; in another case by supplementing the diet with vitamin C. Although hypovitaminosis C was suspected in ten of the 293 guinea pigs with skin disease, based on a history of improper diet and clinical signs, serologic levels of vitamin C were not performed.

Twenty four of the 293 guinea pigs (8.2%) (95% CI = 5.3–11.9%) with skin disease were noted as obese or overweight in the record; half of these had pododermatitis. Twelve of the 287 (4.2%) (95% CI = 2.2–7.2%) of the guinea pigs without skin disease were regarded as obese or overweight. There was no significant statistical difference between the guinea pigs with skin disease and those without, with regard to obesity \((P = 0.058)\).

Looking specifically at pododermatitis and weight, of the 128 guinea pigs with pododermatitis, 12 were obese or overweight (9.4%; 95% CI = 4.9–15.8%). Of the 462 guinea pigs without pododermatitis (both those with other types of skin disease, plus those without any skin

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disease), 24 were obese or overweight (5.2%; 95% CI = 3.4–7.6%). There was no statistical difference between the ones with and the ones without pododermatitis as to the incidence of obesity (P = 0.094).

Infestation with *Trixacarus caviae* was also a common diagnosis, demonstrated on skin scraping or acetate (‘Scotch’) tape preparations in 21 animals (Figure 2). All guinea pigs infested with *T. caviae* were noted as being pruritic in the medical record. In three (14.3%) (95% CI = 3.1–36.3%) cases the guinea pigs were presented with a complaint of seizures and spastic movements when handled which resolved upon treatment for the infestation. Treatment was either ivermectin (200 micrograms/kg) subcutaneous injections (n = 34) or selamectin (Revolution®, Zoetis; Florham Park, NJ, USA) (n = 11) topically, similar to a reported dosage chart. These treatments were used presumptively in 33 guinea pigs on which no mites could be found, but where the suspicion of the clinician was indicated due to the extreme pruritus and/or a cage mate with confirmed infestation. Another mite, *Chirodiscoides caviae*, was found only in two guinea pigs; both had scale and crust but only one was pruritic. Both were treated with selamectin.

Lice were detected in 18 guinea pigs, but only specified in six cases: *Gliricola porcelli* (n = 5) and one case of *Gyropus ovalis*, in association with *G. porcelli*. Pruritus and/or scale were the most common presentations noted in the record in seven cases. In four cases the record specifically noted a normal hair coat with lice viewed on further examination. Selamectin was the treatment used.

Of 128 intact females with skin disease, 16 had cystic ovaries confirmed via ultrasound examination (15) and/or histopathological examination (nine). The cystic ovaries occurred concurrently with nonpruritic alopecia in eight cases (Figure 3). In one case removal of the ovaries resulted in subsequent hair regrowth. Of 117 intact...
females without skin disease, five had cystic ovaries. There was a significant difference ($P = 0.0203$) in the incidence of cystic ovaries between the females with skin disease and those without.

Abscesses (not associated with pododermatitis) presented as subcutaneous nodules. Out of 18 abscesses, seven had material cultured for both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria. Various bacteria were cultured, *Streptococcus viridans*, *Actinomyces* spp. and *Fusobacterium* spp. being the most common. Trimethoprim-sulfa, enrofloxacin (Baytril® injectable 2.27%, Bayer Animal Health; Shawnee, KS, USA) or metronidazole were the most common antibacterial agents used, and with the exception of one guinea pig given enrofloxacin s.c., were always given per os.

Various cutaneous or subcutaneous neoplasms presented as nodules. The most common of these were benign follicular tumours: trichoepithelioma ($n = 4$), trichofolliculoma ($n = 2$), follicular cyst ($n = 1$) (Figure 4).

Cutaneous lymphoma was diagnosed in one guinea pig (Figure 5).

Cutaneous fungal infection was uncommon. Four cases of *Malassezia* spp were diagnosed on cytology, three associated with *T. caviae* infestation. These resolved with the treatment of the mite infestation. Two cases of *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* were diagnosed on fungal culture and successfully treated with oral itraconazole (Sporanox®, Janssen Pharmaceuticals; Titusville, NJ, USA).

The one case of cheilitis responded partially to topical mupirocin (Muricin® 2% ointment, Dechra Veterinary Products; Overland Park, KS, USA) ointment and vitamin C supplementation.

**Discussion**

Our findings corroborate previous reports that pododermatitis is a very common dermatological disease of guinea pigs because it accounted for almost half of the diagnoses of skin disease.1–4 This is in contrast to a separate study which reviewed 1000 guinea pigs with various (not just skin) diseases (plus 81 healthy guinea pigs), in which there were only 30 of 331 (9.4%) guinea pigs with pododermatitis.6 In our cases, the severity varied, but as reported previously, occasionally the condition can progress to osteomyelitis, as was diagnosed in a minority of our cases.1–3 The aetiology of pododermatitis in guinea pigs is multifactorial and is often related to improper husbandry which includes improper substrate, hypovitaminosis C and/or obesity.1–4 Although 50% of obese guinea pigs had pododermatitis, we did not see a statistical difference between the prevalence of obesity in comparing guinea pigs with or without skin disease. It should be borne in mind that the diagnosis of obesity was based on what was noted in the medical record. Although vitamin C deficiency is a well-documented condition in guinea pigs, vitamin C levels are not usually performed on companion guinea pigs due to the volume of blood needed. Hypovitaminosis C can result in a rough haircoat, delayed wound healing and increased susceptibility to bacterial infections, as well as systemic signs such as swollen

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**Figure 4.** Two-year-old female guinea pig with trichoepithelioma on dorsal lumbar area.

**Figure 5.** Three-year-old female guinea pig with cutaneous lymphoma.
joints, haemorrhage and diarrhoea. The retrospective nature of this study precluded conclusions on the ability of corrective husbandry being able to reverse or stop the progression of lesions.

Our study substantiated that *Trixacarus caviae* is the most common ectoparasite infesting guinea pigs and in our cases was always associated with pruritus. The presentation of seizure-like spasms in *T. caviae* infestation has been reported previously. In contrast, lice infestation was not always associated with pruritus. It is important to remember that ivermectin p.o. is not well absorbed in guinea pigs and must be given by s.c. injection. It is thought that 3 of the 4 cases of *Malassezia* infestations were seen concurrent with *T. caviae* infestation. Although fungal infections secondary to *T. caviae* infestation have been noted, *Malassezia* infections affecting guinea pigs, although dermatitis with closely related *Pityrosporum* species has been induced experimentally.

Although dermatophytosis has been reported as common in guinea pigs, only two cases of dermatophytes were diagnosed. *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* was identified in both cases; the species is the most common reported in guinea pigs. As not every guinea pig had a fungal culture performed, it is possible that some were asymptomatic carriers.

An association between cystic ovaries and nonpruritic, often bilateral alopecia has been reported. Removal of the ovaries has been associated with hair regrowth. It was interesting that female guinea pigs with any skin disease were statistically more likely to have cystic ovaries than male guinea pigs without skin disease. The importance of this is unknown, but could possibly be linked to the older age of guinea pigs with skin disease. However, ovarian cysts are normal in normal cycling female guinea pigs, as in one study they were found in 74 of 85 females.

Abscesses were a common cause of cutaneous nodules and have been previously reported, particularly as cervical lymphadenitis caused by *Streptococcus zooepidemicus*, an organism not isolated from the abscesses cultured in our series. These are usually treated with excision and/or lancing and antibacterial agents are usually recommended, as was the case for the agents reported in this study. Another common cause of cutaneous nodules were follicular tumours, especially trichoepitheliomas. Trichofolliculomas, a similar, usually benign hair follicle tumour, was also diagnosed, and have been reported previously as the most common skin tumour in guinea pigs. A viral cause, as is seen in trichofolliculomas in the golden hamster (Mesocricetus auratus) has not been reported. Cutaneous lymphoma, although rare in guinea pigs (again, in contrast to the golden hamster where it is common) has been reported previously. Lipomas and mammary gland carcinomas also presented as cutaneous or subcutaneous nodules, as has been reported.

Staphylococcal infection has been implicated in cases of cheilitis in guinea pigs, as have pox virus infection, and abrasive or acidic foodstuffs. The sole case of cheilitis in our series was of unknown aetiology, but seemed to partially respond to oral vitamin C supplementation in conjunction with topical mupirocin ointment, the latter either because of its staphylocidal effect (reported in experimentally infected guinea pigs) and/or its emollient action.

It is worth noting that the statistical analysis of our dataset data varied to some extent from that of the aforementioned review in which guinea pigs with skin diseases comprised 36% of the diseased guinea pig population, in comparison to the 51% in this study. That study found that males were more commonly affected with skin diseases; trichofolliculomas (not trichoepitheliomas) were the most common skin tumours and that 18% of their cases were referrals. The differences could perhaps be explained by differing genetic breeding lines, or the different percentage of referral cases (32% in our study).

In conclusion, cutaneous conditions in pet guinea pigs examined at the VMTH-SVM are common. Pododermatitis was the most common skin condition, followed by infestation with *T. caviae*. The most common causes of skin nodules are benign follicular tumours and abscesses. Clinicians should perform a dermatological examination in these rodents regardless of the reason for presentation.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Phillip H. Kass for assistance with statistical evaluation.

References


Résumé
Contexte – Les cochons d’Inde (Cavia porcellus) sont des animaux de compagnie populaires avec des dermatoses bien décrites mais la plupart des descriptions sont issues de livres ou d’articles de revue.

Hypothèses/Objectifs – Documenter les maladies cutanées et leur prévalence chez le cochon d’Inde de compagnie en Californie du nord, USA, et étudier les prédilections pour les atteintes les plus fréquentes sur une période de 25 ans.

Sujets – Deux cent quatre-vingt-treize cochons d’Inde de la clientèle hospitalière ont rempli les critères d’inclusion.

Méthodes – Une étude rétrospective a été réalisée par recherche informatisée des données médicales du VMTH (Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital), école de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Californie du 1er janvier 1990 au 31 juillet 2015 à l’aide de mots clés relevant de la dermatologie.

Résultats – Sur les 580 cochons d’Inde vus au VMTH, 50% (293) présentaient des lésions cutanées. Sur les 293 cas, 154 (52%) étaient présentés pour des raisons non-dermatologiques. Les cochons d’Inde avec dermatoses étaient significativement plus âgés que ceux sans lésion cutanée (P=0.0002); les femelles avec dermatose étaient plus souvent sujettes aux kystes ovariens (P=0.0203), bien que ce n’était pas toujours associé à l’alopécie. Les pododermatites et l’infestation à Trixacarus caviae ou les poux étaient les dermatoses les plus fréquentes. L’ivermectine ou la selamectine étaient utilisées pour les traitements des ectoparasites. Les abcès non associés aux pododermatites étaient les nodules les plus fréquents. Les tumeurs folliculaires bénignes étaient les néoplasmes les plus fréquents. Malgré la mention fréquente de dermatophytes dans le littérature vétérinaire, seulement deux cas de Trichophyton mentagrophytes ont été diagnostiqués.

Conclusions et importance clinique – Les dermatoses des cochons d’Inde de compagnie aux USA sont fréquentes. Un examen dermatologique devrait être effectué par les cliniciens quel que soit le motif de consultation de ces rongeurs.

Resumen
Introducción – la cobaya (Cavia porcellus) es un animal de compañía popular con enfermedades de la piel descritas, pero la mayoría de los casos están en libros de texto o artículos de revisión.

Hipothesis/Objetivos – documentar enfermedades de la piel y su prevalencia en cobayas mantenidas como animales compañía en el Norte de California, Estados Unidos, e investigar la predilección de las condiciones más frecuentes durante un periodo de 25 años.

Animales – 293 cobayas de una población de un hospital presentaron los criterios de inclusión.

Métodos – se realizó un estudio retrospectivo buscando historiales clínicos almacenados en ordenador del Hospital Clínico Veterinario de la Facultad de Medicina veterinaria de la Universidad de California desde el 1 de enero de 1990 al 31 de julio de 2015 utilizando palabras clave relevantes en dermatología.

Resultados – de los 580 cobayas vistos en el hospital, 50% (293) tenían enfermedades de la piel. De los 293 casos, 154 (52%) se presentaron por razones no-dermatológicas. Los cobayas con enfermedades de la piel eran significativamente mayores que aquellos sin enfermedades de la piel (P = 0,0002); las hembras con enfermedades de la piel tenían más probabilidad de representar ovarios quísticos (P = 0,0203), aunque no siempre se asociaron con alopecia. La pododermatitis y la infestación con Trixacarus caviae o piojo fueron las enfermedades de la piel más comunes. Ivermectina o selamectina fueron utilizadas para el
tratamiento de los ectoparásitos. Los abscesos no asociados con pododermatitis fueron los nódulos más frecuentes. Los tumores benignos foliculares fueron las neoplasias más frecuentes. A pesar de la mención de dermatofitosis en la literatura veterinaria sólo hubo dos casos de infección por *Tricophyton mentagrophytes* diagnosticados.

**Conclusión e importancia clínica** – las enfermedades cutáneas en cobayas de compañía en Estados Unidos son frecuentes. Los clínicos deben incluir un examen dermatológico cuando examinen estos roedores independientemente de la causa de presentación.

**Zusammenfassung**

**Hintergrund** – Meerschweinchen (*Cavia porcellus*) sind beliebte Haustiere, bei denen Hauterkrankungen bereits beschrieben sind, wobei allerdings die meisten Berichte aus Fachbüchern und Review Artikeln stammen.

**Hypothese/Ziele** – Eine Dokumentation von Hauterkrankungen und ihrer Prevalenz bei Meerschweinchen im Norden Kaliforniens, USA, die als Haustiere gehalten werden, und eine Untersuchung der Prädilektionsstellen der häufigsten Hauterkrankungen über einen Zeitraum von 25 Jahren.

**Tiere** – Zweihundertdreundneunzig Meerschweinchen aus einer Klinikpopulation trafen die Einschlusskriterien.

**Methoden** – Eine retrospektive Studie wurde anhand computerisierter Krankenkarten des Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospitals (VMTH), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, vom 1. Januar 1990 bis zum 31. Juli 2015 durchgeführt. Zur Suche wurden Schlüsselwörter, die relevant in der Dermatologie sind, verwendet.

**Ergebnisse** – Von den 580 Meerschweinchen, die im VMTH gesehen wurden, hatten 50% (293) eine Hauterkrankung. Von den 293 Fällen wurden 154 (52%) aus nicht-dermatologischen Gründen vorgestellt. Meerschweinchen mit Hauterkrankungen waren signifikant älter als jene ohne Hauterkrankung (P=0,0002); weibliche Tiere mit Hauterkrankungen hatten häufigerzystische Eierstöcke (P=0,0203), obwohl diese nicht immer mit Alopecie gemeinsam auftraten. Die häufigsten Hauterkrankungen waren Pododermatitiden und ein Befall mit *Trixacarus caviae* oder Läusen. Zur Ektoparasit enbehandlung wurde Ivermectin oder Selamectin verwendet. Die häufigsten Knoten waren Abszesse, die nicht gemeinsam mit den Pododermatitiden auftraten. Gutartige folliculäre Tumore waren die häufigsten Neoplasmen. Obwohl die Dermatophytose in der Veterinärliteratur häufig erwähnt wird, wurden nur zwei Fälle mit *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* diagnostiziert.

**Schlussfolgerungen und klinische Bedeutung** – Hautveränderungen bei Meerschweinchen in den USA, die als Haustiere gehalten werden, kommen häufig vor. KlinikerInnen sollten immer eine Hautuntersuchung durchführen, wenn Nager – egal wofür - vorgestellt werden.

**要約**

背景 – モルモット (*Cavia porcellus*)は皮膚疾患の報告されている人気のある伴侶動物であるが、報告のほとんどは教科書、もしくは臨床から検査可能なものである。

仮説/目的 – アメリカ合衆国、カリフォルニア州北部において、伴侶動物であるモルモットの皮膚疾患とそれらの有病率を文献化すること、および25年以上の期間に渡る最も一般的皮膚疾患の傾向を調査すること。

供与動物 – 基準を満たす病院に通院している集団である293頭のモルモット。

方法 – 1990年1月1日から2015年7月1日までにカリフォルニア大学、獣医学科獣医学科付属教育病院(VMTH)にて、皮膚科に関連したデータベースを利用して電子化された医療記録の検索により回顧的研究が行われた。

結果 – VMTHに訪れた580頭のモルモットのうち、50%（293頭）が皮膚疾患に罹患していた。293例のうち、154頭（52%）が皮膚以外の理由で来院していた。皮膚疾患を呈したモルモットは皮膚疾患が個体と比較し、有意に年齢が高かった（P=0.0002）。皮膚疾患を呈したものはミエリノが有意に多い傾向があった（P=0.0203）、常に脱毛が存在していたわけではなかった。

結論および臨床的重要性 – アメリカ合衆国における伴侶動物のモルモットの皮膚疾患は一般的であった。臨床家は来院の理由に関わらず、これらの病歴を検査するときには皮膚検査を行うべきである。

**要旨**

背景 – 豚鼠 (*Cavia porcellus*)是动物皮肤病报道中罕见的伴侶动物，但大多数的报道来源于教科书或文献综述。

仮想/目的 – 记录美国加利福尼亚南部宠物豚鼠的皮肤病以及皮肤病的患病率，并调查过去25年间最常见的皮肤病。

動物 – 符合入选标准的、就诊于动物医院的293只豚鼠。

方法 – 使用皮肤病相关关键词搜索兽医教学医院(VMTH)、兽学院和加利福尼亚大学自1990年1月至2015年7月的电子病例，并完成此回顾性研究。
结果 — VMTH中的580个豚鼠病例，50%（293）具有皮肤病变。293例中的152例为非皮肤病学病因。患皮肤病豚鼠年龄明显大于非皮肤病病例（P = 0.0002）；雌性豚鼠的皮肤病更可能是卵巢囊肿引起（P = 0.0203），尽管不总是表现为脱毛。爪炎以及疥螨或虱感染是最常见的皮肤病。伊维菌素或赛拉菌素常用于体外寄生虫治疗。与爪炎无关的脓肿是最常见的结节。最常见的肿物为良性毛囊肿瘤。尽管兽医文献中常提及癣病，但是仅仅有两例确诊为须毛癣菌。

总结和临床意义 — 美国宠物豚鼠常见皮肤病。不管出于何种就诊原因，临床医生都应该对这些啮齿动物进行皮肤病学检查。