

## Evaluation of ERINA Plus as a coat conditioner in canines

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### Abstract

Coat conditioning, deodorant and cleansing properties of ERINA Plus were evaluated in fifty-one dogs of different breeds. More than 80% of dogs showed good to excellent conditioning, deodorant and cleansing effects supported ERINA Plus as safe conditioner shampoo.

**Keywords:** ERINA Plus, coat conditioning, Canine, Evaluation, Dog

### Introduction

The dog's coat is the dog's complexion. With proper attention, a dog will remain healthy. A rich, full, and glossy coat makes a dog look healthy, while a dull, dry, lifeless coat that is constantly shedding hair means that there is something wrong. In canines feeding, breeding, disease control and management plays an important role. A regular bath, grooming, brushing, ear cleaning and nail trimming come under managerial practices. If not managed properly they get infested with fleas, lice, ticks and mites, which may lead to pyoderma, pruritis, dermatitis, seborrheas, scaly skin, etc and release a bad odor from the body, specially in hairy breeds of dogs. To overcome this complaint shampoo's having cleansing, deodorant and conditioning properties are used routinely. Not only do these shampoos clean the hair coat, but also add various conditioning qualities to both the coat and the skin. It is important to remember that a dog's skin is different from that of a human. It is thinner, has no sweat glands (dogs do not perspire) and has a different pH (the surface is less acidic, more neutral). Therefore, many human shampoo preparations are not appropriate for use on dogs. Care should be taken while choosing a shampoo for the dog, especially if the dog's skin is irritated, dry or otherwise abnormal or unusual. Few conditions may aggravate through the use of incorrect shampoo. In the present study, the efficacy of ERINA Plus was evaluated to observe the conditioning, deodorant and cleansing properties.

### Materials and Methods

Fifty-one dogs, 1-10 years old of different breeds of either sex, were bathed with ERINA Plus coat conditioner with cleanser once or twice a week for 3-4 weeks. The animals were divided into 2 groups, group 1 (26 animals) and group 2 (25 animals). Group 1 animals were healthy and given regular bath, whereas, group 2 animals had rough hair coat, dandruff, skin lesions, etc. The owners were instructed to bathe the dogs with ERINA Plus once or twice a week with contact time of 15-20 minutes. Specific systemic therapy was given to dogs having skin lesions. The dogs were observed for any side effects locally or systemically.

### Results and Discussion

Coat conditioning, deodorant and cleansing properties were observed every week for 3-4 weeks. 62.74% dogs showed excellent effect as coat conditioner, while 27.45% showed good and 9.8% fair conditioning effect. As a deodorant, 48.3% dogs showed excellent effect, 29.6% good and 22.1% fair deodorant effect. As a coat cleanser, 78.43% dogs showed excellent effect, 15.68% good and 5.89% fair conditioning effect.

ERINA Plus consists of distillates from herbs mainly, oils of *Anethum sowa*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Rosmarinus officinalis* and *Pongamia glabra*; and extract of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. The herbs possess coat conditioning, cleansing, antidandruff and deodorant properties.

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*Azadirachta indica* possesses antibacterial, antifungal and disinfectant activity (Thakur *et al.*, 1989). Nimbidin in oil is effective against various skin diseases such as furunculosis, arsenical dermatitis, herpes infection, scabies and seborrhoaric dermatitis.

*Rosmarinus officinalis* possesses antimicrobial activity. It acts as a stimulant when applied externally, increasing the blood supply to the skin. It is an antioxidant used to prevent dandruff. Cineole is known to be the active principle. The extract is used in topical cleansing, conditioning and in cosmetic compositions (Rao and Nigam, 1970).

The seeds of *Pongamia glabra* are used in skin diseases. The oil is highly esteemed for medicinal purposes such as scabies, herpes, leucoderma and other cutaneous diseases (Singh and Upadhyay, 1993; Kirtikar and Basu, 1996). The active principle responsible for the curative effect of the oil in skin diseases is Karanjin. Clinical experiment indicates that it is free from the highly irritating and inflammatory effects of coumarin compounds (Nadkarni, 1992).

The flowers of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* are emollient and refrigerant, which have a stimulating and conditioning effect on the skin. It prevents hair-loss, dandruff and scalp disorders (Agarwal and Shinde, 1967). Synergistic effects of the herbs present in ERINA Plus contribute for its efficacy.

#### Conclusion

There were no reports of staining hair coat or irritation in the dog after application. All the dog owners expressed complete satisfaction with ERINA Plus in

respect to odor, lathering and application.

Thus, it is indicated that ERINA Plus is a safe and effective topical preparation as a coat conditioner, deodorant and cleanser.

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