

# Treating Sarcoptic Mange in Urban Coyotes and Foxes

Sarcoptic mange is a parasitic disease caused by the sarcoptic mange mite. The mite burrows into the hair follicles and sucks blood, causing irritation and secondary bacterial infections. The animal's body reacts by shedding hair and causing secretions of cells and fluids that make it appear squinty or blind. It is a miserable, debilitating disease that weakens them until they slowly die of starvation and sepsis. We appreciate your participation in this program. It is less stressful for the animal to treat them in their native environment rather than the facility, and often, by the time they are trapped to be brought in for treatment, they are closed to death.

## Treatment Protocol

1. Prior to picking up the medicine at our facility, prepare a minimum of 36 RAW hamburger balls (approximately the size of quarter). Bigger is not better because the animal would have to take multiple bites of it instead of swallowing it whole. You do not want them to spit out the pill in the baited one. (See below)
  - The hamburger ball should be tossed easily in the direction of the animal when you see him so he will be curious and check it out.
  - Feed him two hamburger balls where he regularly appears to establish a routine of time and place. This helps ensure that your animal will be the one consuming the medication. You are preparing him to take the medication easily.
2. On the **third day after a routine has been established**, insert **ONE** of the pills in the hamburger ball.
  - If possible, watch the animal consume it and then follow up with another hamburger ball to help him “wash” it down.
  - Some animals will pick the hamburger balls up off the ground after the routine has been established, and this is the preferred method instead of tossing it in their direction.

- You should see a noticeable improvement of the animal's skin condition within a week. Continue to feed the hamburger balls for the next two weeks (again you are establishing a routine so that the animal will easily ingest the second pill).
3. **Exactly TWO WEEKS** after the ingestion of the first pill, repeat steps 1 and 2 of the process and give the animal the second pill that will cure the current case of mange. Discontinue feeding the hamburger balls.

Note that the mange can come back because it is a zoonotic disease, which means it's transmissible to other species. If your animal is associating with others who have mange, you may see this condition return. We can offer this program because we received a one-time grant to purchase the first round of medication. This is a self-perpetuating program, and to continue it, we must replenish funds so we can purchase more medication in the future. We recommend a \$ 25 donation.

#### Other things to consider:

1. We will need your address so we can confirm no one else in your immediate vicinity is also baiting. We do not want to overdose.
2. We also need a picture of the animal – we are required to verify the disease.
3. We can send the medication via priority mail for the cost of the shipment (\$ 8.65) and your donation (suggested \$ 25) for the medication. Payment can be made through our PayPal account [opwildlife@aol.com](mailto:opwildlife@aol.com). Please make sure that you note the reason for the donation and include your mailing address.
4. We will ask for your phone number so we can follow up.
5. If possible, we love to have before and after pictures if you can send them.