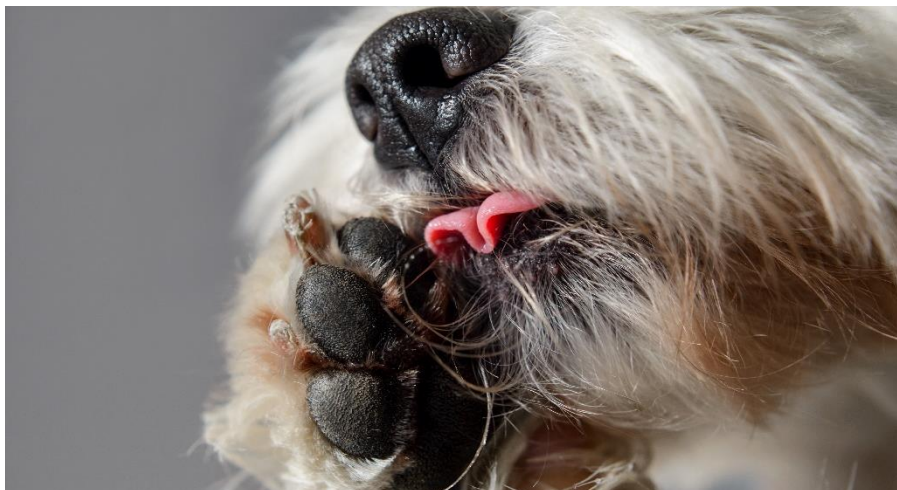


Stained fur (saliva staining) in dogs

Overview

- Saliva staining develops when a dog over-grooms (licks, bites or chews) himself / herself.
- It often indicates a problem i.e. pain, an itch or stress.
- Saliva staining can be brown, red, orange or pink.
- It shouldn't be ignored – book an appointment with your vet if you notice staining anywhere on your dog.



Saliva staining around the mouth and in between the toes

Saliva staining explained

Saliva stained fur is usually red, pink, brown or orange. It develops when an area of fur is constantly licked, chewed or nibbled. Over-grooming indicates a problem, for example, pain, an itch or even a behavioural issue such as stress.

Tear staining

Staining can also appear from the corners of the eyes; we call this 'tear staining'. Tear staining should be checked by a vet.

Causes

Over-grooming often indicates a problem such as:

- Pain (e.g. arthritis in a joint)
- Itchy skin
- Stress / anxiety
- Boredom



This dog has been over-grooming due to arthritis in his foot.

When to contact your vet

Contact your vet for an appointment if you notice staining anywhere on your dog. Most problems are much easier to treat if they're caught early.

Published: Jan 2019