

SOME POPULAR MYTHS ABOUT FELINE ACNE

Dr. William Miller is quick to dispute a number of erroneously held beliefs about feline acne. It is widely suggested, for example, that the use of plastic feeding bowls is a major cause of this skin condition — the idea being that plastic tends to harbor harmful bacteria, while glass, metal, and ceramic bowls, which can be more thoroughly washed, do not pose this hazard. “Just be sure to keep whatever bowls you’re using — no matter what they’re made of — spotlessly clean.”

Another myth, says Dr. Miller, is that cats with sloppy eating habits are at significantly higher risk for breaking out with acne around their mouths. Says Dr. Miller: “If your kitty habitually splashes food all over itself as it eats, that’s not necessarily going to cause acne. Even the most fastidious cats get it.”

Finally, he is also skeptical regarding the common suggestion that stress can cause feline acne. “I suppose there could be a connection between acne and chronic, intense stress,” he says, “but then you wouldn’t just have acne—you’d have a cat that’s a nervous wreck in many ways.”