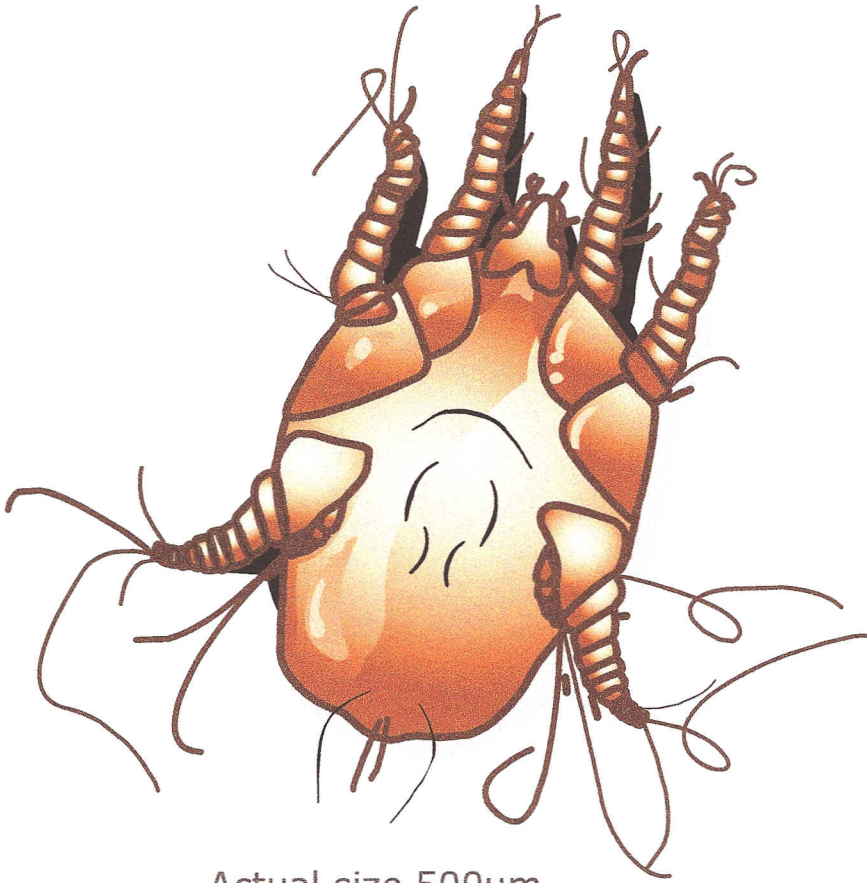


Ear Mite - Adult: Adult ear mite.



Actual size 500µm

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The ear mite (*Otodectes cynotis*) is a surface mite that spends the majority of its life within the protection of the ear canal. It can live on other skin surfaces, where it may serve as a source of re-infection. Mites are highly contagious and are not species specific, so they can rapidly spread between all of the animals in a household. The entire ear mite life cycle takes place on the host animal. It takes 3 weeks for a mite to develop from egg to adult, going through a total of 5 stages. Adult ear mites live about 2 months, during which time they continually reproduce. Symptoms of an infestation include excessive scratching or head shaking, a black waxy ear discharge, and hair loss or a crusty rash around the ears. Since other conditions can cause very similar clinical signs, they must be ruled-out before treatment is begun. Adult ear mites can be readily identified if the ear discharge is examined under the microscope. For further information and details about treatment, refer to our specific Client Education Handout Series.