

Robinson Veterinary Services

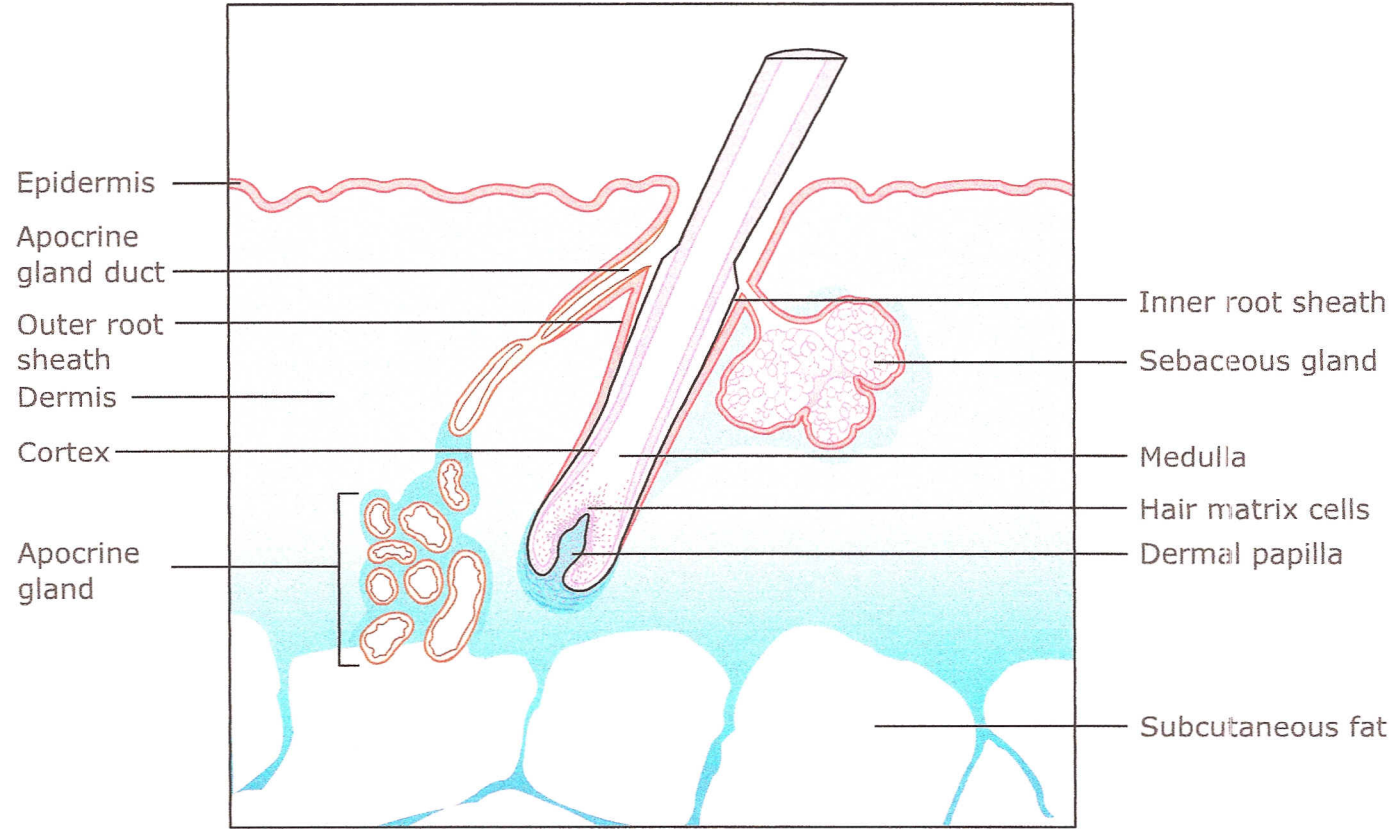
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Skin Cross Section: Normal anatomy of the skin.



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The skin is composed of many layers of cells and each individual layer varies in thickness. The epidermal layer is the outermost layer, and is much thinner in dogs and cats than in humans. Dogs and cats do not sweat like humans since their skin has very few apocrine sweat glands. The sebaceous glands produce a waxy substance that coats the hair and skin and helps prevent it from drying out. Some dogs are predisposed to developing sebaceous gland problems such as cysts and benign tumors. Some skin diseases affect the epidermal layers, while others such as demodectic mange and folliculitis affect only the hair follicles. For further information about specific skin diseases, see our Client Education Handout Series.