A 3-year-old, female Spitz, was presented due to lack of response to therapies with a 6-month history of skin lesions characterized by diffuse erythema and scaling on the dorsal trunk. Physical examination revealed the dog was active and healthy. Skin culture isolated no fungus. Histological examination of skin biopsy specimens revealed interface dermatitis with hydropic degeneration of the basal layers, predominant plasmacytic perivascular accumulation in the dermis, and intensive plasma cell-rich interface mural folliculitis. Moderate CD3-positive lymphocytes infiltrated the superficial dermis. This report may provide unique information of canine discoid lupus erythematosus in an unusual breed with atypical cutaneous lesions.
Discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE) is a commonly reported canine autoimmune disease that normally presents with a phenotype consisting of erythema, depigmentation, scaling, erosions/ulcers, and scarring over the nasal planum and the proximal dorsal muzzle. Recently, two cases of a generalized variant of this disease have been reported, whose lesions responded to either systemic glucocorticoids or a combination of topical corticosteroids, topical tacrolimus, and the oral antimalarial hydroxychloroquine. All the animals with discoid lupus erythematosus were dogs and most of them were mongrel females. More frequently breeds affected by discoid lupus erythematosus were german shepherd and akita and the mean age was 56 months.