



## When would I see allergy symptoms in my pet?

This depends on the cause of your pet's allergy problems. If it has an allergy to pollens you might see all or more symptoms in the spring or summer. If, however, your pet has a problem with indoor substances, such as house dust or mites, or food related allergies, you are more likely to see year round allergies.

## My pet is currently on Apoquel™ or Cytopoint™, why do I still need to proceed with testing/treatment?

Apoquel™ & Cytopoint™ are anti-itch tools developed to provide short-term relief and can be used in conjunction with hyposensitization. Anti-itch medicines relieve the immediate itch, while treatment builds tolerance to the offending allergens. Allergen-specific hyposensitization remains the safest option for the core treatment of atopy [an allergic reaction]¹.

"We must be very cautious and emphasize the need to do a complete workup on the dog for underlying cause rather than just treating the pruritus [itching]." - Bruce Hansen, DVM, DACVD, Dermatology and Allergy Services for Animals²

### A TRUE ALLERGY SUCCESS STORY!!



Willie has been on allergy shots for a short 3 months.....he is down to one allergy pill, and no hives! My advice to people who are not sure about allergy shots, or testing....DO IT!!! It saves you and your pet's sanity of playing the "guessing" game. Thank you Spectrum Veterinary! -Tina K.

Spectrum Veterinary is proud to offer the latest in allergy testing for Canine, Feline, and Equine allergies with the patented

 **SPOT Platinum™**  
Serum Allergy Testing  
and Treatment Program

[www.vetallergy.com](http://www.vetallergy.com)

Provided by:

 **spectrum vet**  
a nextmune company

and your Veterinarian:

Sources Cited:

1. Loewenstein C and R Mueller. 2009. A review of allergen-specific immunotherapy in human and veterinary medicine. *Vet Dermatology* 20: 84-98.
2. Hansen B, Lewis TP, Stokking L, Rosychuk R, Mckay L and Gloyd K., "Canine Atopic Dermatitis: Building A Lifelong Treatment Plan", *Clinicians Forum*, Jan 2017: 1-8.

## is your pet

*chewing, licking, sneezing, itching, red, wheezing, coughing?*

it could be allergy



# Can dogs & cats really have

# ALLERGIES?



**D**ogs and cats, just like humans, can have allergies. More than 30% of all skin irritations in these animals can be attributed to allergies.

## What are allergies?

An allergic reaction occurs when an individual's immune system reacts to a normal substance in the environment. These substances are called allergens and include: pollens, molds, animal hair, house dust, fleas, foods and many more. Allergens cause reactions through skin contact, inhalation or ingestion. Allergic animals possess IgE antibodies to specific allergens. These antibodies cause biochemical changes in the body which produce allergy symptoms.



## Why are my pet's symptoms worse sometimes than others?

Allergens are cumulative in their effect on animals. The more allergens an animal is exposed to at any one time increases the chance of allergy symptoms, as well as the extent of the reaction. The easiest way to picture this "threshold" phenomenon is to think of drops of water in a bucket, sooner or later the bucket will overflow, much as the immune system "overflows" beyond it's threshold. For this reason, time of a symptom's onset is not necessarily an indication of what the animal is allergic to. An animal with food and pollen allergies may only show symptoms in the summer (pollen count at its highest) because the pollens push it over the threshold.

## How can I have my pet's allergies diagnosed?

After a thorough examination, your veterinarian will decide if allergy testing is indicated for your pet. Having ruled out other possible causes, a small sample of blood is drawn and submitted to Spectrum Veterinary for diagnostic evaluation. There, your pet's serum will be tested for sensitivity to inhalants such as pollens from trees, grasses, weeds and shrubs, fungi, house dust and mites, as well as for food types used as ingredients in commercial dog and cat food preparations.



## What about treatment for my pet's allergies?

The best form of treatment for allergies is avoidance of the offending allergen/s. In most cases, however, this is not possible.

Steroid drugs are often used for short-term relief, but prolonged use of steroids can have serious side effects and never really addresses the root cause of allergies. Hyposensitization is another alternative that can be formulated into allergy injections or allergy drops depending on the patient's needs and what your veterinarian feels is best. Regardless of which option you choose, treatment sets are formulated specifically for your pet based on its allergy test results. The treatment builds up your pet's tolerance to the offending allergens so it can live more comfortably in its environment, without the worry of side effects. Please note: Apoquel and Cytopoint, while used to alleviate allergy symptoms, should not be confused with allergy treatment.

## How effective is our form of treatment?

Some allergy symptoms dissipate with time and treatment. In other cases, animals may require continued allergy treatment to maintain tolerance to the allergens in question. With adherence to the treatment schedule, one can expect an excellent chance of elimination of or reduced dependence on steroid drugs. Improvement, in most cases is seen after 4-6 months of treatment.

## What about food allergies?

Since dogs and cats cannot be hyposensitized to foods, elimination is the only form of treatment. Should your pet test positive to foods, Spectrum Veterinary will supply your veterinarian with a list of commercially available foods, free from the ingredients your pet tested positive.

## How does an animal show signs of allergy?

While the causes of allergies in humans and animals are the same, the clinical signs displayed may differ. In humans, the classic signs of allergy are nasal and respiratory distress. In animals, however, it is far more common to see signs of skin irritations with intense itching. Cats often show more signs of respiratory distress (as in humans) than dogs.

The classic signs of an allergic animal begin with scratching, feet licking and chewing, and face rubbing. As the allergies become more severe, the chewing may eventually lead to bacterial skin infections and large open sores. Food allergies can also cause skin problems, although it is not uncommon for them to cause vomiting and diarrhea.