

Pet Allergies and Dermatology

Allergy-induced skin conditions are some of the most common reasons for bringing a pet to Creekside Veterinary Hospital. Itching, scratching, ear infections, scooting and hot spots are all good indications of allergies. Pet allergies are very common and treatable, but can fester and become serious health conditions if left untreated.



Types of Allergies in Dogs and Cats

- Flea allergy: The bite of a flea on your dog or cat causes an intense allergic reaction, resulting in itchy skin. This is the MOST COMMON allergen in pets! Even if you cannot find a single flea, it is possible that this is the problem.
- Food allergy: An aspect of your pet's diet triggers the immune system in the skin to itch. Most often skin issues are also accompanied by vomiting, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal problems. An animal protein source in the food/treats/scraps is usually the trigger.
- Atopic Dermatitis/Seasonal Allergies: An allergen (such as pollen, dust, human skin dander, mites, or mold) makes contact with the skin after passively floating through the air. In allergic dogs, this causing extremely itchy skin which can progress to skin infections or skin injuries from excessive scratching.

Dog & Cat Allergy Symptoms:

- Itchy, red skin
- Hives
- Generalized itching
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Ear infections
- Noticeable increase in scratching
- Constant chewing or licking of paws
- Fleas
- Dust Mites
- Tree Pollen
- Grasses
- Mold
- Cockroaches
- Foods/Treats/Table Scraps
- Perfumes
- Household materials and fabrics

Common Causes of Pet Allergies:

Pet Allergy & Itch Treatment

It will take some time for you and the Vet to sort out which is the problem, and since all the types of allergy can look similar, it may take some trial and error. The trickiest part is that any pet can have all 3 types of allergy at once! Meaning we may fix the itchy problem by 50% with proper pet and environment treatment for fleas, 15% with a change in diet, and another 35% with treatment for atopy.

Options for itch relief include: Novel protein foods, prescription strength hydrolyzed food, elimination diet, Antihistamines combined with essential fatty acids, Cytopoint Injections, Apoquel, Customized allergy immunotherapy, Anti-itch conditioners, Topical steroid sprays, Oral steroids, Oral or injectable immunotherapy and Evaluation by a board certified veterinary dermatologist.

Can you imagine being so itchy that you can't sleep? Perhaps you can! Nobody wants their pet to feel this way. In fact, your pet may be keeping you up at night with itching, shaking, kicking, groaning or licking. With proper treatment, you can get back to getting a good night's sleep, too!