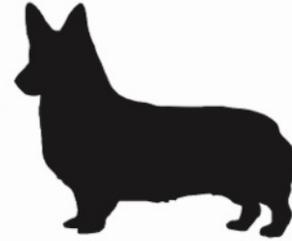




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Monday - Friday: 8:00-5:30 | Saturday: 8:00-1:00 | Sunday: Closed



# Allergies



Just like people, animals can show allergic symptoms when their immune systems begin to recognize certain everyday substances-or allergens- as dangerous.

Even though these allergens are common in most environments and harmless to most animals, a pet with allergies will have an extreme reaction to them.



Allergens can be problematic when inhaled, ingested or contact a pet's skin.

As his body tries to rid itself of these substances, a variety of skin, digestive and respiratory symptoms may appear.

## What Are the General Symptoms of Allergies in Pets?

- Itchy, red, moist or scabbed skin
- Increased scratching
- Itchy, runny eyes
- Itchy back or base of tail (most commonly flea allergy)
- Itchy ears and ear infections
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Snoring caused by an inflamed throat
- Paw chewing/swollen paws
- Constant licking

## What Substances Can Pets Be Allergic To? A few common allergens include:

- Fleas and flea-control products (Only a few flea bites can trigger intense itchiness for two to three weeks!)
- Tree, grass and weed pollens
- Mold spores

- Dust and house dust mites
- Dander
- Feathers
- Cigarette smoke
- Food ingredients (e.g. beef, chicken, pork, corn, wheat or soy)
- Prescription drugs
- Perfumes
- Cleaning products
- Fabrics
- Insecticidal shampoo
- Rubber and plastic materials

## Flea Allergies



Many pets have allergies to fleas and become incredibly itchy after being bitten just once or twice.

You may not be able to find any evidence of fleas on your pet because pets with flea allergies tend to clean themselves very aggressively. Licking, biting or scratching particularly around the neck, thighs, belly, flanks and base of the tail can be signs of a flea allergy in pets.

Long-term use of a flea control medication containing an adulticide that kills adult fleas and an insect growth regulator (IGR) that prevents immature fleas from growing up and reproducing is the best way to manage flea allergies.

Also, never use canine flea medications on cats since they can make cats very sick. Your veterinarian can recommend a suitable product based on your pet's particular needs.

## Can Pets Be Allergic to Food?

Yes, but it often takes some detective work to find out what substance is causing the allergic reaction. Pets with a food allergy will commonly have itchy skin, chronic ear infections or sometimes gastrointestinal problems like diarrhea and vomiting, and an elimination diet will most probably be used to determine what food he is allergic to. If your pet is specifically allergic to chicken, for example, you should avoid feeding him any products containing chicken protein or fat.



Please note that food allergies may show up in pets at any age.

## What Should I Do If I Think My Pet Has Allergies?

Please visit us at Adobe Animal Hospital. After taking a complete history and conducting a physical examination, we may be able to determine the source of your pet's allergic reaction. If not, we will recommend skin or blood tests, or a special elimination diet, to find out what's causing the allergic reaction.

### For More Information:

<http://www.petmd.com/cat/slideshows/7-common-cat-allergies>

<http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/allergies-dogs#1>

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Please make an  
appointment to discuss  
your pet's health:



[AdobeVets.com](http://AdobeVets.com)

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