



DOG LIFE

Dog allergies

BY HARRY KALAJIAN

Allergies in dogs are most commonly caused by food, liquids, plant pollens or pesticides and can affect any breed, regardless of the dog's age or gender. The most common signs of an allergy are raw, red bumps on the skin, red eyes and repeated scratching, particularly if accompanied by whining. These signs may also be an indication of other underlying medical or psychological issues.

Do not mistake dry skin scratching for an allergy. Dry skin can be related to weather conditions or lack of essential oils in your pet's food.

Certainly, allergies are annoying and a great concern to many dog owners. Veterinarians see many dogs with this issue, and after a few tests they often prescribe medication. Does it work?

Sometimes yes and other times no. Your dog's particular problem may not be the typical textbook case, and unfortunately, veterinarians often don't have time to do follow-ups and keep a close watch on each individual dog.

Ask yourself when the first signs of allergy appeared, and what changes occurred during that time. From that point you may be able to narrow down the cause to a diet change, household cleaning products, lawn spraying in the area, a high pollen count or air pollution, for example.

Eliminating one or two possible causes and monitoring the outcome will help diagnose what might be causing the allergy. The answer may come quickly, or it may take weeks or months. With food allergies, a one-week trial is needed before you can say with any certainty that you have found the allergy-causing ingredient. Once you have ascertained that a food allergy is not the case, move on to testing the dog's treats or household cleaning products or the shampoo you wash the dog with. It's trial by elimination, testing one thing at a time.

ALLERGIES SYMPTOMS

FACE

SYMPTOMS: RED, HAIR LOSS AROUND EARS OR MUZZLE, SWOLLEN
BEHAVIOR: LOTS OF SCRATCHING, RUBBING FACE WITH PAWS, SNEEZING

EARS

SYMPTOMS: RED ODOR, WAXY DISCHARGE, YEAST INFECTIONS
BEHAVIOR: SCRATCHING, RUBBING, SHAKING HEAD.

HAIRCOAT

SYMPTOMS: REDNESS, BARE SPOTS, BAD ODOR, DISCOLORED FROM LICKING OR SORES
BEHAVIOR: LICKING BODY, SCRATCHING, RUBBING ON FURNITURE



PAWS

SYMPTOMS: DISCOLORATION, INFLAMED, HOT SPOTS, DRY SKIN, RED OR BROWN BETWEEN TOES
BEHAVIOR: CHEWING AND LICKING

SKIN

SYMPTOMS: REDNESS, BAD ODOR, HAIRLOSS, SCALY SKIN, DRY, IRRITATED
BEHAVIOR: SCRATCHING, LICKING, TREMBLING, RUBBING ON OBJECTS

I see one trend that seems to be associated with allergies in dogs: namely that the number of cases of canine allergy began elevating in the late 1980s, and every year after that the problem has become more common. Why? The simple answer is the influx of new and different food brands for dogs, many with new ingredients. There has also been a huge increase in the number and variety of housecleaning products. If the medication from your veterinarian doesn't work, try to figure out the cause yourself. Keep a log of what you give your dog, and do so daily.

Tip of the month:

If your dog's urine is burning your grass, for a small dog put one teaspoon of Coffee Mate in its

food (not in water). For a medium-sized or larger dog, put one tablespoon of Coffee Mate in its food (not in water). This neutralizes the acidity of the urine. It usually takes a week before you start seeing a difference. You will notice very green grass in the places where your dog pees.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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