

Providing Relief from Dog Allergies

Any dog can suffer from canine allergies. Some breeds such as Bulldogs, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Schnauzers, and Terriers appear to be genetically pre-disposed to allergies, in particular, allergies caused by food ingredients.

Food allergies usually cause the dog's skin to become itchy and irritated on and around the face, feet, ears, forelegs, armpits and near the dogs sphincter. Frequent inner ear infections, loss of hair, extreme scratching, hot spots, and skin infections that may respond to antibiotics but return after the antibiotics are completed are all common effects of dog allergies. If your dog displays an increased incidence of bowel movements it may also be a sign of food allergies. In general, dogs have around one and a half bowel movements per day, whereas food allergies usually increase the amount to three or more daily.

Suspected dog food ingredients such as preservatives, additives, peanut butter and tomatoes can cause your dog to have allergic reactions; Peanut butter is sometimes found in dog biscuits, and tomato paste is typically found in many dry dog foods. Protein can also cause dog allergies and is present in such items as chicken, beef, carbohydrates, wheat or corn. A diet of lamb and rice is recommended by veterinarians for dogs with such allergic reactions.

What most people don't realize is that you can prepare allergy free pet food for dog at home. Remember, dogs love fresh vegetables such as carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. Bear in mind that vegetables not only prevent allergic reactions but also provide added benefits that will provide your dog or cat with a longer healthier life. A gradual transformation between diets is recommended to avoid stomach problems.

Some dog allergies are due to the environment. Pets are commonly allergic to trees, grass, pollen and fabrics such as wool or nylon. Others environmental causes would include plastic or rubber materials, mites, flea bites or insects. Their body responds to these allergens by becoming itchy. When dogs scratch too much, sores develop which creates a perfect place for a bacterial infection to manifest itself. When a dog is not in direct contact with the allergen, Veterinarians diagnose dermatitis by inhalation, aka Atopy, which is an allergy that results from inhalation of pollen, dust, mold, or any allergy substance in the air.

Paws, ears, and face are common areas that become inflamed by allergies. Consult with your veterinarian about controlling pet allergies. To heal sores on a dog's body, treatments such as fatty acid supplements, hypoallergenic shampoo and hydrocortisone creams are very effective. Veterinarians use antihistamines to relieve the dogs itching and make life more comfy for your canine friend. There are some side effects to be aware of when using an antihistamine such as sleepiness, hyperactivity, constipation, dry mouth & lack of appetite. Be sure you have consulted your vet before using any medication on your dog.

When dogs have allergies, the allergy usually presents itself in the form of a sore on the dogs back or belly. These sores often time force the dog to lick or claw at the area causing the hair to fall out. Food allergies as well as environmental culprits can make your dog's life unbearable. Zeroing in on the cause of the allergy will improve your pet's quality of life!

About the Author

Similar to people, dogs can experience from the effects of allergies. By contacting your veterinarian, they can be controlled. In addition Joanne Gallagher suggests visiting [Jakes Dog House](#) for all natural, [holistic dog treats](#), glucosamine dog food and organic dog biscuits.

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