

What causes it?

Allergic skin disease can be caused by several allergens:

- 70% - Environmental, airborne allergens

e.g. pollen, spores & dust mites

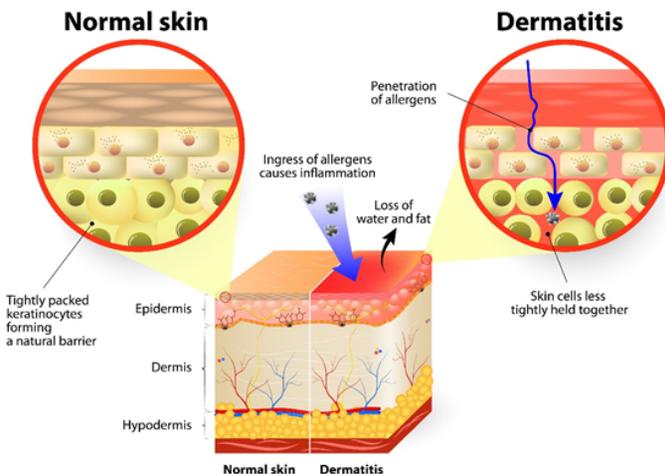
- 20% - Food allergens

e.g. chicken, beef

- 10% - Flea Bite or Contact allergens

e.g. cleaning products

The two most risky times of the year for skin flare-ups are spring and autumn during the weather change. This change in climate upsets the normal skin flora and healthy balance, resulting in greater sensitivity to environmental allergens.



Allergic Skin Disease



What can we do to help?

We can't CURE allergies but there is lots we can do to HELP

Limiting Allergen Exposure

Medicated shampoo

To reduce skin exposure and reduce microorganism numbers

Food trial

To rule out a food allergies. This involves a 6-8 week period of ONLY feeding a specialized allergy diet e.g. Hill's Z/D or Royal Canin Hypoallergenic/Anallergenic

It is important that no snacks or other food is fed for this period to help determine if your pet's itchiness is affected by food.

Changing bedding, flooring or cleaning products

If a contact allergy is suspected.

Flea treatment

All pets should be on regular flea treatment as just one bite can trigger an allergy.

Reducing Skin Inflammation

Medications

There have been big advances in treatments for allergies in recent years, including Apoquel, Cytopoint or Atopica. Antihistamines and occasionally steroids can also be used to help to control the itch.

These drugs are very safe if used correctly and can really help to make your pet feel a lot more comfortable.

Topical products such as creams and sprays may also be prescribed.

Improving Skin Health

Strengthening the skin barrier and improving overall skin health is a vital component in management of skin allergies.

Supplements, oils and conditioners may be recommended and tailored to your pet's individual needs.

A special skin diet may be recommended that contains natural supplements to help the skin.

In some cases, allergy testing may be recommended.

Your vet may recommend for you to come for a recheck. This is VERY important to improve outcome, so please follow their recommendations