ALLERGIES in Pets

What is an allergy?

Allergies are damaging responses by the immune system to environmental substances or by foods that are normally harmless.

Acute allergic attacks are brought on by things like insect stings or certain medications.

Chronic allergies present a long-term struggle for pets and owners, and can seriously diminish an animal's quality of life.

Most chronic allergies in pets fall into one of three categories: atopic dermatitis, respiratory, or food allergies.

**DIAGNOSIS**

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Chronic allergies present a long-term struggle for pets and owners, and can seriously diminish an animal's quality of life.

**TREATMENT**

Avoiding the allergen

If possible, remove the cause of the allergy from the pet's diet or environment.

Steroids

These drugs can be effective in treating allergic disease, but they have a range of side-effects, including weight gain, increased drinking and urination, sleeplessness, and anxiety.

Antihistamines

Some antihistamines used in pets are also used in humans. These drugs should only be given to a pet under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Other drugs

Most allergic animals require more than one drug over their lifetime to control their symptoms. There is no single best drug.

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