

Oakland Veterinary Referral Services Dermatology & Allergy

Atopic Dermatitis (Environmental Allergies)

Does your dog lick, bite, chew and scratch?
Does your dog get frequent ear infections?
Does your dog “break out” in crusts or bumps?

These are signs of Atopic dermatitis, or Allergic Skin Disease
Dogs can have allergies just like people can, and they can be very time-consuming, expensive, and frustrating for owners to deal with!

What Are Allergies?

Atopic dermatitis is a genetically determined tendency to have allergic reactions to normal substances in the environment, like mold, dust mites, dander, pollens and flea saliva. Allergies in the dog are similar to “hay fever” in people, except that a dog’s allergies affect their skin. Allergies can be controlled, but not cured, and usually get worse with age if not treated.

What Can Be Done for Your Pet?

The Dermatology Department at Oakland Veterinary Referral Services wants to help you manage your dogs allergic skin disease.

There are two main ways to keep your pet’s allergies more controlled:

1. Symptomatic Treatment- this means using different medications, both oral and topical, to control symptoms. Symptomatic treatment does not address the underlying allergy, therefore, repeated visits to a veterinarian to address seasonal flares can be expected.
2. Allergen Immunotherapy- this is what we call “allergy shots”, just like those that people get! Allergy shots address the underlying allergy by “re-training” the immune system.

Your pet’s medical history is a very important part of the dermatologic evaluation.

Examples:

- What medications your pet is currently taking ?
 - Have any medications helped the problem?
- Is there a time of year when the problem is worse?
- What areas of your pet are affected?

-what is your pet's diet?

My Dog Has Allergies, Now What?

The veterinarians and technicians at OVRS are dedicated to helping you manage your pet's allergies.

Please call us for an appointment, or with any questions that you may have.