



Amy J. Randall, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVD

After receiving her doctorate of veterinary medicine from NC State University, Dr. Amy Randall practiced general veterinary medicine for a year in Fredericksburg, VA. She then completed a two-year internship in veterinary medicine and surgery at Mississippi State University. Dr. Randall

performed her residency at The Ohio State University and earned a masters degree. She is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. Dr. Randall has a practice in Portland, Oregon called Animal Allergy and Ear Clinic and currently travels to North Carolina to see patients one week out of the month. She is currently seeing patients out of Happy Tails Veterinary Emergency Clinic in Greensboro.

Would You Like an All Natural Way to Manage Your Pet's Allergies?

Atopic dermatitis (allergies to environmental allergens) is the second most common allergy of dogs and cats. It means animals have developed an allergy to environmental pollens, molds, house dust mites and other common airborne substances. The most common symptoms of canine and feline atopic dermatitis include itching, scratching, licking and chewing the feet, legs and any other part of their body excessively, rubbing on the furniture, carpet or walls, hair loss, foul odor from the skin, scaling and flaking. Atopic dermatitis is genetic and occurs when a pet's immune system reacts abnormally to allergens which are inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Symptoms can occur during the spring to fall seasons or all year round. Unfortunately, once pets develop allergies they usually worsen with each year. Pets do not grow out of atopic dermatitis, but instead, get worse with age.

Management of Atopic Dermatitis

There are numerous treatment options for atopic dermatitis. Most of them include medications such as prednisone (steroid), antihistamines, Atopica (cyclosporine), and Apoquel which help provide temporary relief of allergy symptoms. These symptomatic treatments only address the animal's symptoms and require long-term use with possible long-term side effects. None address the underlying disease or stop the progression of the allergy. Thus your pet's allergies can gradually worsen over time despite being on these medications.

Now, The All Natural Way to Manage Atopic Dermatitis

Allergen Specific Immunotherapy is the only treatment known to actually alter the course of the disease, rather than mask the symptoms. It builds up your pet's immunity to allergens through a

series of injections or oral drops with increasingly larger doses of an allergy serum specifically formulated to your pet's sensitivities. This treatment is effective for allergies associated with pollen, molds and house dust mites.

This is **NOT** a medication, this is a natural solution that does not "cover up" or suppress your pet's immune system. Allergen specific immunotherapy works to regulate (or normalize) the immune system naturally using small amounts of the naturally-occurring allergen(s). Immunotherapy is believed to change the pet's actual allergic response, it is the only treatment that can prevent a worsening of your pet's allergies. Over time, immunotherapy can lead to a long-term solution for an animal's allergies. The best part of immunotherapy is it has been shown to have no long-term side effects.

How is Allergen Specific Immunotherapy Formulated?

Allergen Specific Immunotherapy (allergy serum) is formulated from the results of an allergy test. Allergy testing can be done by either intradermal testing (skin testing) or by blood testing. It identifies which trees, weeds, grasses, molds and house dust mites are causing the skin problems or allergy symptoms. The gold standard is the intradermal testing. Numerous studies have repeatedly shown this test to be more accurate than blood testing. This form of testing is usually only available through board certified dermatologists. These specialists have been trained through residency programs and years of practice to perform and read the test results in order to formulate the serum accurately.

Two Forms of Allergen Specific Immunotherapy Administration

Allergy Specific Immunotherapy (allergy serum) used to be administered through injections only. These were small needles with small amounts of the allergy serum which was administered into the subcutaneous tissue (fatty tissue) on the back of the neck of the pet. Now there is oral immunotherapy (Sublingual Drops). Oral immunotherapy has been proven to be just as efficacious as injections. It is much easier to administer and readily accepted by the pet. Oral immunotherapy is dispensed out of a pump, right into the pet's mouth, then absorbed through the mucous membranes. Typically it is given every day or sometimes twice daily.

At our clinic we have had extremely good results with our oral formulations. Many patients are getting relief from their symptoms within a few months of treatment. We are even seeing some patients who have previously failed injectable immunotherapy have success with oral immunotherapy.

If you would like more information or have questions about allergies, please call us at Animal Allergy and Ear Clinic at 503-574-4150. We can provide help and answer any questions you may have. I work out of Happy Tails Veterinary Emergency Clinic in Greensboro one week of each month, however, you can call my office at any time.

Animal Allergy & Ear Clinic
503-574-4150

See ad on page 16.