

THE ALLERGENS

PET-RELATED ALLERGENS ARE NOT FAR BEHIND DUST MITES AS MAJOR ALLERGY SOURCES

DANDER: The first allergen to be blamed for pet-related allergies is usually dander, probably because it is so easy to see on the hair. Dander, another name for the dead skin cells that animals shed, is indeed an important allergen. All warm-blooded pets, regardless of hair length, produce dander that can trigger allergic reactions.

The principal difference between dander and the following allergens is its relatively heavy weight. Dander falls to the floor or furniture rather quickly, as opposed to Fel d1 which floats interminably in the air where it can be inhaled deeply into the airways of the lungs.

FEL D1, THE CAT ALLERGEN: Almost four out of five persons who are allergic to animals are allergic to cats. When you see someone who is allergic to them, you can be virtually certain that their problem is from Fel d1.

More Fel d1 is deposited onto the skin and coat by male cats than by females, both from the secretions of the sebaceous glands and from the cat's saliva during its self-cleaning process. The highest concentrations of Fel d1 are generally found around the genitalia and the base of the tail, but because the self-cleaning is an on-going process for most of the day, it is found over the entire animal.

As the Fel d1 (microscopic in size and invisible to the eye) dries on the skin and hair, it is carried into the environment by currents of air.

Fel d1 is an extremely potent allergen, capable of triggering an allergic reaction almost instantly. Continually airborne, it is inhaled with every breath. This is why a reaction can occur within a few minutes after entering a home inhabited by a cat.

SALIVA AND URINE: Along with dander, the proteins from saliva, urine and other body secretions are major sources of dog allergens. While they are not as potent as those of the cat's, it is of utmost concern that these allergens be cleansed from the hair as often as possible.

ALLERPET HAS BEEN TESTED WITH THE LOVING, PURRING, LICKING CONSENT OF MANY FRIENDLY, WELL GROOMED, BEAUTIFUL CATS AND DOGS, INCLUDING OUR OWN.

ALLERPET IS UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED TO BE SAFE FOR PETS . . . FOR PEOPLE . . . AND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

DOGS: In recent years, research has shown several breeds of dogs to have breed-specific allergens, however, no single breed has yet been found to be more or less allergenic than any other.

BIRDS: Being caged does not prevent birds from scattering their feather dust into the atmosphere as they flutter their wings, preen themselves and move about. To minimize this, apply Allerpet/B using a trigger spray bottle to mist the bird as you would with water, spraying away from the head and towards the tail.

SMALL ANIMALS & URINE: Urine is of special importance with small animals such as rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils etc. Apply Allerpet/C as described in this brochure. Dry thoroughly with a towel. Frequent cage cleaning, fresh bedding and good ventilation are all important sanitary and health measures.

ANY ANIMAL WITH FUR OR FEATHERS CAN TRIGGER AN ALLERGIC REACTION. THESE INCLUDE CATS, DOGS, RABBITS, GERBILS, HAMSTERS, GUINEA PIGS, FERRETS, MICE AND BIRDS. OF THESE, CATS ARE BY FAR THE WORST OFFENDERS, FOLLOWED BY RABBITS AND DOGS.

PETICULAR TIPS

ALLERGIES ARE CUMULATIVE: Being allergic does not necessarily mean that you can't have a pet or that you must give up one that you already have. Learning more about minimizing pet-related allergies and making some minor adjustments will frequently solve your problem.

Allergies build up. If a person is allergic to animal allergens, they are also probably allergic to other substances found around the house . . . dust, dust mites, molds, mildew, feathers, paint, perfume, soaps, pesticides, and smoke.

Individuals who are allergic to animals may exhibit no noticeable symptoms when their total exposure to allergens is below their allergy threshold level, however, collect enough allergens in the environment to exceed this limit and troubles begin. The goal is to minimize exposure to indoor allergens that exceed tolerance thresholds and trigger attacks.

PETS IN RESIDENCE: The longer a cat or dog resides in a house with free access, the more likely it is that large quantities of Fel d1 and dander will have accumulated in carpeting, draperies, furniture and on the walls. Because of this, you might want to use Allerpet every 4 or 5 days for the first few weeks. *Opening the windows for an hour or so on a breezy afternoon will do wonders to cleanse the house of Fel d1.*

DURING DRY SPELLS: and in arid climates, use a little Allerpet in a spray bottle between applications to moisturize the animal's hair. This will reduce the spread of allergens into the environment.

THE BEDROOM: Make every effort to reduce the dust and pet allergens throughout your entire home as much as possible. The room that should receive your most intense effort is the bedroom. Experts say that if you can breathe "pure" air for 8 to 10 hours each night, you can probably tolerate more exposure to allergenic substances during the day. Keep your bedroom as free of allergen catchers as possible: the furniture clean and simple; pictures or hanging decorations at a bare minimum; no magazines or newspapers. Nothing under under the bed. No clutter. No bulky drapes. No carpeting, especially deep pile or loop. The more washable surfaces, the better.

Walls collect and hold Fel d1. Use a long handled feather duster to dust the walls every few weeks. Dust the furniture often, using a damp dustcloth or a cloth moistened with a dust control spray. Vacuum rather than sweep. Use an allergy vacuum cleaner with HEPA filtration or add an electrostatic filter bag to your conventional vacuum to make it more efficient in picking up allergens. Air out the room often, daily if possible, preferably with a fan pushing the air out of a screened window.

BEDDING: Try to keep your pets out of the bedroom. If that is not possible, do your best to keep them off of your bed, especially your pillow. If you can't do this, encase mattresses, box springs and pillows in allergy-proof casings. Wash your bedding frequently with De-Mite® to get rid of the allergens that are always present.

AIR CONDITIONERS, both window and central, can be beneficial during the appropriate season, but they also collect mold and can cause allergy problems if they are not cleaned regularly. If you have central air conditioning, you should have an air purifier as well to keep the same contaminated air

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from being continually recirculated.

HEPA AIR PURIFIERS: (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters can dramatically improve the quality of air in a house. The National Bureau of Standards indicates that HEPA air filtered units are 99.97% free of contaminating particles.

CAT LITTER: Dust from cat litter can aggravate allergies. Plain clay litter is less irritating than brands with deodorizers. Try various brands to find the one that produces the least dust. Pour the litter into the pan slowly to keep the dust from permeating the air. A gauze mask will help when changing litter. Look into one of the "clumping" litters.

YOUR WELL-BEING: Avoid undue fatigue, emotional upsets, or any kind of stress. These may weaken the immune system to the point of triggering an allergic attack. Don't smoke. If you are the least bit allergic, smoking will increase your chances of respiratory and health problems and lower your tolerance threshold to other substances.

THE ALLERPET SOLUTION

THE FIRST APPLICATION of Allerpet can usually be done by the allergic person, however, if he or she is very sensitive, it is better to have it performed by someone else.

If your pet is small enough, especially if it is a cat, let it lay on your lap on a terrycloth towel where it will feel secure. Use a fine or medium toothed comb for cats and a pin or slicker brush for dogs to remove as much dead hair as possible. Break apart any mats or tangles.

Wet a washcloth with just enough Allerpet to make it damp, but not enough to drip when lightly squeezed. Use Allerpet/C for cats, rabbits and small animals or Allerpet/D for dogs, to cleanse the animal by running the cloth both with and against the lay of the hair, making certain to get down to the skin. Pay more attention to the areas that pets lick most often . . . around the genitalia and the base of the tail where urine residue tends to collect.

ALLERPET IS NOT A CURE ALL . . . BUT, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IT CAN HELP YOU LIVE MORE COMFORTABLY WITH YOUR PET BY REMOVING ITS PET-RELATED ALLERGENS BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO ENTER INTO YOUR HOME ENVIRONMENT.

SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS should be applied once a week as described above. It is safe to use Allerpet more often if necessary. Brushing or combing is not necessary before every application, but all dogs and cats should be kept free of tangles and dead hair for both your health and your pet's. Concerned care is part of responsible pet ownership.

ALTERNATIVE 1: Bathing your pet is an alternative to using Allerpet. It will definitely help, but is usually not as effective because of the needed preparations and the experience necessary to properly give a bath, but especially the knowledge of how to rinse the animal thoroughly. The need to go through this process on a weekly basis is a necessity, particularly in the case of cats. Weekly bathing without conditioning tends to dry out the coat and leave excessive dander after a period of time. Over-conditioning oils the coat, attracting dirt and allergens. A big advantage of Allerpet is that you can apply it while watching TV or just relaxing. Cats and small dogs love the grooming.

ALTERNATIVE 2: You should keep in mind that any professional groomer will brush, bathe and/or apply Allerpet to your cat or dog. You don't need to own a 'groomable' dog or cat to patronize them. Consider using one periodically between your daily groomings. This is a normal service, and the costs are small. You might even ask to have your pet's nails cut and ears cleaned at the same time.