



Does your Dog Suffer From Allergies?

Would you recognize the symptoms of dog allergies in your dog? Would you know how to deal with them? Allergies are a very real problem for some dogs and their owners.

Dogs can get allergies for a variety of reasons, but there are a few culprits that lead to a state of weakened immune system. Once a dog has a weakened immune system, he may start having allergic reaction to things that would not normally bother a healthy, strong dog. He may develop a serious autoimmune problem like inflammatory bowel disease or hyperthyroidism.

According to Richard Pitcairn, these things may lead to a dog developing a weakened immune system:

- *combination injections used a lot
- *excessive use of cortisone drugs
- *commercial dog food diets

The latter is an interesting point, as even milder cases of allergy, dogs may be allergic to some of the commercial foods we feed them. He suggests switching to a healing diet, which you prepare yourself, for about 2 to 3 months. If after this time there is no improvement, then it is safe to say that food is not causing the allergy. Dr. Pitcairn's recommended allergy diet includes grains like brown rice, meat, and vitamins.

Once the dog has been on this diet for a months, you can start introducing foods that he used to eat, gradually. It's best to introduce the foods one at a time, so you have a chance to see whether a reaction occurs after he eats it. Once a food, or ingredient has been identified, the option exists to find a good quality food that doesn't contain those ingredients. There exist special foods that are formulated for dogs with skin conditions, and these might be more suitable.

Foods are not the only substances that can trigger an allergy however. your dog may be allergic to:

- *Chorline or other household chemical agents
- *cleaning chemical. either in you house or yard
- *gases released from chemical in your furniture or buildings
- *synthetic carpet
- *plastic food bowls
- *some tupe of grasses or plants
- *regular dog care products like heartworm or flea products
- *flea bites

The systems of a dog suffering from an allergy could be one or more of the following:

- *itchy skin
- *skin eruptions(especially at the base of the tail and the lower part of his back)
- *too much licking of front feet
- *problems in the digestive tract including gas, gurgling in the stomach, loose stool or diarrhea
- *inflammation of the toes
- *his rear end is irritated
- *licking and dragging his rear end on the floor

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