

November 2003

Seasonal Allergies

Just like humans, our pets can develop allergies. Some common signs include hot spots, itching, red and irritated eyes, hair loss and ear problems. Fall and Spring tend to be the seasons when these symptoms are at their worst. Many times we are able to treat the symptoms with antibiotics and steroids, but these treatments are not a long-term solution due to their side effects. The best treatment is to find the root of the problems, what is causing the symptoms.

Veterinarians, such as Klingele Veterinary Clinic, are able to test for food, flea and inhalant allergies. This is a simple blood test that is sent to an outside lab for testing. If there is an allergy to foods (such as beef, turkey, rice, etc.), then the solution is to eliminate the foods your pet is allergic to from their diet. If your pet has flea allergies, again the solution is fairly easy, protect your pet from flea bites with flea protection products. If your pet has inhalant allergies (such as certain trees, ragweed, dog or cat dander) then you may choose to do de-sensitization injections. This involves a special serum that is prepared for the properties that your pet is allergic to. Then there is a series of injections that help de-sensitize your pet to these properties. This process initially takes several months and several injections, but eventually it becomes a once a month injection. There is good success with this, but the owner has to be very committed to the process since it is a lengthy one.

If your pet has allergies, the key is to find out the source of the allergies, not just treating the symptoms. Just think...the absence of thump, thump, thump as your pet scratches in the middle of the night – what a wonderful thought!

Article is courtesy of Klingele Veterinary Clinic

By Charlotte Waack, Veterinary Technician

www.klingelevet.com/home.html