

Allergic Skin Disease in Dogs

Allergic skin disease is a common problem, particularly in Queensland where hot, humid summers provide ideal conditions for a high allergen load in the environment.

Signs of skin disease include

- *Inflamed skin that is pink or red*
- *Scratching licking or chewing constantly*
- *Chewing paws*
- *Rubbing face on the ground*
- *Rubbing themselves on fences*
- *Can display anxiety*

Excessive scratching causes trauma to the skin which results in secondary infection

Causes of Allergic Skin Disease

Flea Allergy Dermatitis - Prevention involves being rigorous with flea control. Please discuss this with your vet. Comb dog with flea comb over back and tail for flea faeces Wash bedding regularly. Avoid having dog lie in dense vegetation.

Food Allergies - Discuss this with your vet as it may be necessary to try and eliminate certain **foods to determine if this is the dog's problem**

Atopy - This is genetically inherited and is caused by allergies to substances in the environment inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Treatment often involves cortisone and antibiotics for secondary infection. It may be possible to identify the allergens and desensitize the dog through a vaccine. Your vet can advise. and possibly refer you to a Veterinary Dermatologist . Medicated shampoos can help.

Allergic Contact Dermatitis - is rare in dogs and occurs when in contact to plants or chemicals. Only the contact area is inflamed

For More Information Go to Petalia

