

Skin Allergies (Allergic Dermatitis or Atopy)

- An allergy to pollens and molds.
- Unlike in humans where the respiratory tract is targeted, in animals the skin is affected.
- The allergens penetrate through the skin and are inhaled.
- Certain breeds are predisposed and a hereditary component exists.

Signs

- Seasonally itchy skin, especially the paws, anus, underarms and belly.
- Secondary ear infections, bacterial skin infection, anal sac problems

Diseases that can look similar

- Flea allergy
- Food allergic dermatitis
- Sarcoptic or Demodectic mange
- Ringworm

Diagnosis

- Skin testing
- Serum testing
- Typical clinical presentation
- Correct time of the year
- Positive response to treatment

Treatment Options

- Hyposensitizing injections (following skin or serum testing)
- Oral Anti Inflammatory Steroids
- Cyclosporine
- Antihistamines
- Oral fatty supplement
- Topical shampoos, conditioners, sprays, creams, ...