

Food Allergies

- Signs:**
- * Itching, licking, or hair loss on the limbs, face, neck, groin, thighs, feet, perineum, or ears.
 - * Secondary yeast or bacterial infections of the skin or ears.
 - * May see crusts, redness, scales, or hyperpigmentation.
 - * Non-seasonal problem.

Age of Onset: * Any age.

Rule-outs that look like food allergies: * Environmental allergies (atopy), contact allergies, flea-bite allergies, skin mites, bacterial infections, or fungal infections.

Diagnosis: * Improvement of signs within a twelve week period of time feeding a hypoallergenic diet.

Hypoallergenic diet trial: * Gradually add prescription diet to regular food over a one week period.

- * Offer the prescription diet by hand or try mixing the food with warm water.
- * After transitioning to the new prescription diet, feed the diet exclusively for 6-12 weeks.
- * No table scraps, rawhides, vitamin-mineral supplements, or toys.
- * Prevent access to other animals' feces or food.

The Challenge:

- * After the trial, if signs go away, the diagnosis of a food allergy is confirmed by offering the original food being fed.
- * If the signs of the food allergy return within 10 days, the diagnosis of a food allergy is confirmed.
- * Once a food allergy is confirmed, a hypoallergenic diet will be needed for the life-time of your pet.

Please call us if you have any questions.