

Life's Abundance presents:



Common Allergies Affecting Cats

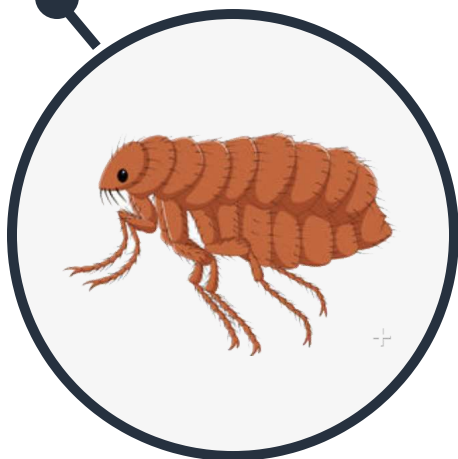


Cats Get Allergies Too!

While dogs get the biggest share of attention when it comes to allergies, the truth is our feline friends can suffer from allergic disease too! Summertime brings out some common culprits for this problem, so you may be noticing new symptoms as the weather warms up.

We've made a list for you of five of the most common causes of allergic disease in cats, and what you can do about it.

1



Fleas

While fleas are a common nuisance in cats, dogs, and people, some cats have a true allergic reaction to flea bites. For these unfortunate souls, one bite is all it takes to trigger hours of miserable itchiness!

The good news is, once the fleas are gone, so are the symptoms. There's a wide variety of flea preventives on the market, so don't hesitate to keep those bugs away!

Pollens

Just as we may experience hay fever, cats can have allergies to common outdoor pollens like grasses, trees, and flowers.

Outdoor allergies tend to be seasonal, so you can expect cats with these allergies to have good seasons and bad seasons depending on the weather. In severe cases, your veterinarian can help with prescriptions if keeping your cat away from the offending pollen isn't possible.

2



Dust, mites, and mold

The flip side to outdoor allergies are indoor allergies. Cats can react to dust, mites, and mold the same way we do. In fact, some cats have a documented "human" allergy!

Indoor allergies can be challenging to manage since the cats are exposed year-round. In addition to cleaning and bathing your cat, medications are sometimes necessary to bring these symptoms under control.

3



Food

Cats can experience allergic reactions to specific ingredients in food such as beef, pork, chicken, wheat, or eggs. While the skin is most commonly affected, cats may also experience gastrointestinal signs such as vomiting, diarrhea, or gassiness. Be particularly suspicious if the scratching is confined to the head and neck region.

Food allergies are diagnosed with a strict elimination diet to identify the offending source.

4



Fragrances

To some cats, strong fragrances are as annoying as walking through a department store perfume counter and getting sprayed in the face. Cleaners, deodorizers, air fresheners, and scented litters are common offenders.

Consider unscented litters and natural cleaning products free of artificial fragrances to save your cat from olfactory overload!

5



What Should You Do?

If you suspect your cat has allergies, give your veterinarian a call. They may recommend allergy testing, a food trial, or medications if your cat is feeling miserable. In addition, all that licking and chewing may cause secondary infection, which needs to be treated. The sooner you address it, the sooner your cat can be back to feeling like him or herself!