



## THE ITCH CLINIC

Allergy Dermatology Otolaryngology  
Neurochemical and Neuro-Immunological Itch

Dr. Keith A Hnilica DVM, MS, DACVD



4 Locations in East Tennessee

Knoxville Maryville Tricities Chattanooga

[www.itchnot.com](http://www.itchnot.com)

(800) 621-1370 ext2

# Allergy Desensitization Vaccine Therapy Guide

Dr. Keith A. Hnilica, DVM, MS, DACVD

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## Controlling Allergens In Your Pet's Environment

Avoidance of all environmental allergens is virtually impossible. However, it can decrease exposure and may lessen your animal's symptoms. Here are a few suggestions.

- Dust and vacuum often, but not when the pet is present.
- Consider installing air conditioning, air filtration systems and/or a vacuum with air filtration to avoid reintroducing allergens back into the pet's environment.
- Use dehumidifiers which help control mold and mites.
- Bathe your pet frequently with a veterinarian recommended shampoo.
- Use other topical products as prescribed by your veterinarian.
- Limit the pet's outdoor time during peak allergy seasons.
- Avoid going outside at dawn and dusk which can be times of high outdoor pollen.
- Rinse off pet's paws right after they've been outdoors.
- Seek veterinary care to treat any suspected skin infections immediately and aggressively.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What exactly is allergen specific immunotherapy?

Allergen specific immunotherapy is a long-term treatment that builds your pet's immunity to allergens through injections with increasingly larger doses of a serum specifically formulated to your pet's specific sensitivities. This option is effective for treating allergies from pollen, molds, house dust, and other common airborne substances, but not recommended for food allergies.

### Does immunotherapy cure my pet's allergies?

Allergies are lifelong problems that can be controlled but not cured. Unlike medications that "cover up" or suppress your pet's abnormal immune system, immunotherapy works to regulate the immune response. In the long term, it is often more effective than many medications and has been shown to have no lasting side effects.

### Will my pet always need injections?

When your pet's symptoms are under control, it may be possible to extend the time between doses, but allergy injections will be necessary as long as symptoms persist.

### How were the allergens chosen that are in my pet's prescription?

Your pet's allergy test, history, and exposure to allergens revealed the specific allergens affecting your pet. The treatment vials contain a purified combination of these problem allergens.

### What results should I realistically expect?

Some decrease of symptoms may be seen as early as 3 weeks. However, the average length of time before an initial response is usually 3 to 4 months. Some pets may take up to a year to respond. Continued improvement is frequently seen with longer use. Your veterinarian will set goals with you for your specific situation.



## ALLERGY SKIN TESTING ALLERGY DESENSITIZATION VACCINE

Allergy skin testing and Desensitization vaccine therapy is the GOLD STANDARD for treating Atopy (environmental allergies).

1. Allergy Skin Testing and Desensitization Vaccine works BETTER, FASTER, and is SAFER in dogs and cats than people.
2. The allergy skin test identifies any pollens, insects, house dust, dust mites, and indoor allergens that can cause the allergic symptoms.
3. Allergy skin testing is better than blood tests with the allergy vaccine resulting in superior response and cure rates.
4. 85% of patients demonstrate good to excellent improvement in the first 3 months.
5. 60% of patients can stop the allergy desensitization vaccine therapy after 2 years and are in long-term remission (cure).
6. The allergy desensitization vaccine is administered at home every 7-14 days.
7. Dogs and cats have very-very few adverse effects from the shots.



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• ALLERGY • DERMATOLOGY • OTOTOLOGY  
• NEUROCHEMICAL and  
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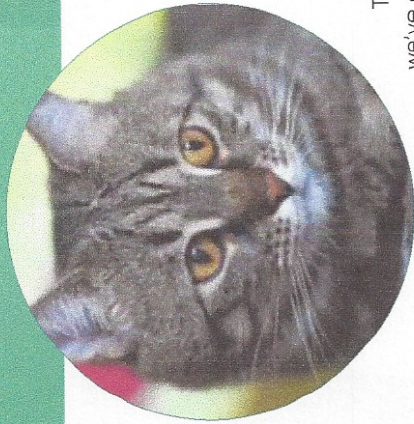
*Helping YOU find more successful  
treatments for your allergic pet*

Providing Specialized Veterinary Care for Your Pets ...

Allergies - Skin Infections / MRStaph  
Ear Disease - Hormonal Imbalances  
Auto-Immune Diseases ... and all other skin conditions

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## How To Give Injections

To help you remember the steps, we've created the 5-step **S.T.A.R.S. System**. There is also a handy Quick Guide in the back of this book that you can place on your refrigerator door, kitchen counter, or other convenient location as a reminder about the process.

### 1. Set up

- Take the appropriate prescription vial out of the refrigerator and check the vial strength.
- Clean the top of the vial with an alcohol wipe.
- Uncap the needle and draw the proper amount of solution from the vial. Double check that you have the correct amount. **The difference between 0.1 mL and 1.0 mL is significant.**
- To make the injection more comfortable for your pet, allow the solution in the syringe to reach room temperature before you administer it.

### 2. Tent the skin

- The injections are usually given in the nape of the neck.
- It may be helpful to move the location each time, so the same spot is not repeatedly used. (Find the center of the neck and vary the injection sites by picturing a clock and giving later injections at the different hours, moving clockwise.)
- With the hand that will not be holding the syringe, lift up the skin at the back of your pet's neck and into a "tent" shape.

### 3. Administer the injection

- With the thumb and middle finger of your other hand, hold the barrel of the syringe like a dart. Do not touch the plunger.

- Quickly and firmly insert the needle at a 45 degree angle into the tent of skin and underlying tissue, being careful not to penetrate the opposite side of the skin or your fingers.
- Pull back on the syringe plunger. If there is blood in the syringe, remove the needle and find another spot.
- Push the plunger with your index finger to inject the solution and withdraw the needle when finished.

### 4. Record

- Properly dispose of the syringe and needle. Use a new syringe for each treatment.
- Return the prescription vial to the refrigerator.
- In the diary on pages 10-15, record the date, amount given, and your pet's response.

### 5. See

Watch your pet for one hour after each injection. If there are no reactions, continue to follow the dosage schedule. Adverse reactions may occur because the dose is too strong. Do not continue to increase the dose if your pet has any adverse reaction.

## Adverse Reactions You Should Report To Your Veterinarian

Common adverse reactions include:

- Inflammation at the site of the injection
- Increase in itchiness and redness

If your pet has any of these common reactions, the dosage schedule may need to be changed. Your pet may benefit from adjusting the dosage schedule. **Please consult your veterinarian.**

**Extremely Rare Adverse Reactions. Call your veterinarian immediately if you observe any of these.**

- Collapse
- Facial swelling
- Diarrhea
- Hives
- Difficulty breathing
- Vomiting
- Weakness





# The Itch Clinic

*Allergy, Dermatology, and Otolaryngology*

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Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Controls

30 Min Rxn

1	Saline	
2	Histamine	

## TREES

30 Min Rxn

3	Alder mix	
4	Ash mix	
5	Beech, American	
6	Birch mix	
7	Box Elder/Maple mix	
8	Cedar	
9	Cottonwood, Eastern	
10	Elm mix	
11	Mulberry, White	
12	Oak Mix, Eastern	
13	Pecan	
14	Hickory mix	
15	Pine Mix	
16	Poplar, White	
17	Privet	
18	Sweet Gum	
19	Sycamore, Am, Eastern	
20	Walnut, Black	
21	Willow/Black	

## GRASSES

22	Bahia	
23	Bermuda	
24	Johnson	
25	Ky, Orchard, Rye, Timothy	
26	Sweet Vernal	
27	Meadow Fescue	
28	Redtop	

## WEEDS

29	Cocklebur	
30	Dz	
31	Grass Smutt	
32	Dock, Yellow	
33	Dog Fennel	
34	Plantain-Sorrel mix	
35	Goldenrod	
36	Hackberry	
37	Lamb's Quarter	
38	Marsh Elder rough	
39	Mugwort	
40	Nettle	
41	Pigweed mix	
42	Ragweed mix	
43	Red Clover	
44	RT	

## HOME ALLERGENS

45	Mold mix	
46	House dust mix	
47	House dust Mites mix	
48	Kapok	
49	Cat	
50	Human Dander	
51	Sk	
52	Sheep, wool	
53	Mattress Dust	46/54
54	HMRU Dust	46/53

## INSECTS

55	Flea	
56	Ant	
57	Mosquito	
58	Moth, Ants, Mosquito, CR	
59	Staphylococcus	

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## SCHEDULE

Date	Blue Vial	Red/Silver Vial	Response
Day 1	0.1 ml		
Day 3	0.2 ml		
Day 5	0.3 ml		
Day 7	0.5 ml		
Day 9		0.1 ml	
Day 11		0.2 ml	
Day 13		0.3 ml	
Day 15		0.4 ml	
Day 17		0.5 ml	
Every Week		0.5 ml	

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