

Flea Allergy Dermatitis

Flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) is the most common allergy in pets. It is caused by the saliva in flea bites. It is a very itchy disease and may cause your pet to be predisposed to secondary skin infections.

Allergic pets do not need to have a heavy burden of fleas to have a severe skin reaction. Only one or two fleas bites every few weeks are enough to make your pet severely irritated.

Treatment

The saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and this is true for flea allergies. If your pet has been diagnosed with FAD it is best to keep your pet on a monthly flea preventative for the **entire** year. Prevention of the problem is the best way to ward off flare ups due to fleas. In the long run monthly prevention will make your pet and checkbook happier.

If your pet is suffering from FAD your veterinarian may need to treat your pet with more than just flea preventatives. Antibiotics and/or antihistamines may be necessary.

Together you and your veterinarian can determine which monthly flea prevention is right for your pet as well as any additional treatment that may be necessary for your pet's environment.



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