

# Products & Treatments

## HDM Home Check Test

This is a semi-quantitative diagnostic test that can be performed in the home to determine if clinically relevant levels of allergen are present. This simple gadget is wiped over surfaces to collect a sample of house dust. A diluent is then added and the internal immunochromatographic device indicates the concentration levels of allergen after a short period of time. This semi-quantitative rapid test is specific for both UK species of House Dust Mite - *D pteronyssinus* and *D farinae* and correlates with laboratory testing. The HDM Home Check is particularly useful to initially detect the areas where house dust mites are most prevalent and subsequently concentrate the treatment in these areas to reduce the threshold effect. It is also a useful device to establish levels of allergen in large/expensive items e.g. mattresses, sofas, carpets where treatment is preferable to replacement. Used at regular intervals the test provides an ongoing indicator for future treatment. This simple DIY test for your clients is easy to use and includes full instructions together with advice on treating house dust mites.



## Total Hygiene DM1

This spray dramatically reduces HDM colonies, mould, bacteria and fungi in carpets, bedding and soft furnishings, in fact all areas in the home where the house dust mite thrives.

DM1 creates a double barrier that prevents a re-infestation for up to 6 months by inhibiting microbial growth and denying the dust mites a food source. Clinically proven in independent scientific tests on treated articles to be at least 99% effective in reducing dust mite numbers and completely removing microbial growth\*.

It is non-irritant and non-sensitising environmentally friendly and biodegradable. After 6 months a simple reapplication continues the protection process. The active ingredient is Permethrin 0.214% w/w.

Tests have proven that Health Guard DM1 inhibits a wide range of microbes including:

- |                 |                          |                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Bacteria</b> | • Bacillus subtilis      | • Enterobacter aerogenes   |
|                 | • Escherichia coli       | • Proteus vulgaris         |
|                 | • Pseudomonas aeruginosa | • Pseudomonas fluorescens  |
|                 | • Staphylococcus aureus  |                            |
| <b>Algae</b>    | • Chlorella pyrenoidosa  | • Anabaena cylindrica      |
|                 |                          | • Saccharomyces cerevisiae |
| <b>Yeasts</b>   | • Candida albicans       |                            |
| <b>Moulds</b>   | • Aspergillus niger      | • Chaetomium globosum      |
|                 | • Ulocladium consortiale | • Penicillium funiculosum  |
|                 |                          |                            |

\*Effectiveness of Total Hygiene DM1 has been reviewed by Independent Bodies and is acknowledged by the International Asthma Campaign and Allergy Research Foundation.

## Petal Cleanse™

The product was originally developed for people who are allergic to their pets. However it can also be used for dogs that are allergic to cats. Petal Cleanse™ is a surfactant based lotion that removes allergens from the coats of cats and dogs. It is safe for the pet and significantly reduces the allergic symptoms experienced by the pet owner.

The potent allergens in animal dander and saliva are encapsulated and removed by the lotion and the coat and skin is conditioned to further reduce the amount of allergenic material shed. In trials, over 90% of people who suffered from allergies to pets benefited from the use of Petal Cleanse™. Petal Cleanse/D can be used on dogs, Petal Cleanse/C can be used on cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and other small animals. a 350ml bottle lasts for around 3 months for each pet based on weekly applications.



# Immunotherapy

The management of environmental allergies is based, apart from allergen avoidance on two types of treatment: symptomatic treatment (antihistamines, corticosteroids) and aetiological treatment (specific immunotherapy, also known as desensitisation). However, long term steroid treatment, is not ideal and clients often express concern about extended steroidal use. Antihistamines are widely used in humans to control allergies but give inconsistent results in animals. The aim of immunotherapy is to make the animal tolerant to the environmental allergens responsible for their symptoms by introducing increasing amounts of the allergens to which they are sensitive.

The YorkTest test result reports the allergen-specific concentrations as a Class Score between 0 and 5. The higher the concentration of IgE the more significant the reactivity with the allergen. Generally, any causal allergen can be included in an immunotherapy prescription, but clinical history and allergen exposure are also important factors when choosing allergens for inclusion in the vaccine. For example one would not include allergens to which the animal has had no exposure.

## Ordering process

Full details of the service (VMD authorisations, ordering, repeat prescriptions etc) are included with every positive environmental allergy test result. Our Customer Services team will assist with the ordering of vaccines, alternatively, an independent consultant dermatologist is available to assist with diagnosis, management and immunotherapy treatment plans if required.

## Treatment protocol and timing

The treatment is administered by subcutaneous injection. Adverse reactions are minimal with only occasional local reactions and systemic reactions are exceptionally rare.

The initial treatment consists of vials that last for 6 - 8 months (depending on species). The dosage regime gradually increases until the maximum tolerate dose is reached.

This is followed by the maintenance treatment. For highly seasonal symptoms we recommend starting immunotherapy at least 3 months prior to the onset of symptoms.

## Response

The length of time before a response is seen to the immunotherapy vaccine varies from patient to patient. Studies show the average time to be between 4 and 6 months, although in horses particularly this may be up to 12 months. Treatment efficacy should be reviewed after 12 months and the treatment should be terminated in the event that there is no improvement in the alleviation of symptoms. Treatment may be continued for the life of the patient and premature discontinuation may result in symptom resurgence within a few months.

## Benefits

Immunotherapy is a practical option where there are a number of clearly defined allergic responses and the success rate is good. Studies and anecdotal evidence have shown a beneficial response to immunotherapy treatments have also shown that concurrent therapies can be reduced and in certain cases eliminated completely.