

## Serological allergy tests

The SENSITEST® cat and dog panels test for these allergens using a small sample of blood:

### Canine & Feline Tests

#### Food Allergy Test

Beef  
Lamb  
Duck  
Chicken  
Turkey  
Pork\* (C)  
Rabbit\* (F)  
Salmon\* (F)  
Tuna\* (F)  
White fish mix (Cod, Haddock)  
Whole egg  
Cow's milk  
Soybean  
Wheat  
Rice  
Corn (maize)  
Oats\* (C)  
Barley\* (C)  
Potato\* (C)

#### Indoor Allergens

##### Storage Mites

Acarus siro  
Glycophagus destructor

##### House Dust Mites

Dermatophagoides farinae  
Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus

##### Dander

Cat epithelia\* (C)  
Human dander

##### Moulds

Alternaria mix  
(*alternata*, *tenuis*)  
Aspergillus mix  
(*amstelhami*, *flavus*,  
*fumigatus*, *nidulans*, *niger*)  
Penicillium mix  
(*camembertii*, *chrysogenum*,  
*digitatum*, *notatum*, *roquefortii*)

#### Outdoor Allergens

##### Grasses

Meadow Grass  
Cocksfoot  
Meadow Fescue  
Red top, bent grass  
Rye, perennial  
Sweet vernal  
Timothy

##### Weeds

Daisy  
Dandelion  
Dock, yellow  
Lamb's quarters (fat hen)  
Mugwort  
Nettle  
Plantain  
Ragweed  
Red Clover

##### Trees & Shrubs

Alder  
Ash (green, white)  
Beech  
Birch (white)  
Hazel  
Hawthorn  
Oak (red, common)  
Privet  
Scots Pine  
Willow (black, goat)

##### Insects

Fleas

\* (C) - Canine only  
\* (F) - Feline only

We also test horses for allergies, please see the SENSITEST® 'Allergies and Your Horse' leaflet.

Ask your vet for  
further information

PRACTICE STAMP

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SENSITEST®  
the complete allergy service

Allergies and  
Your Pet



# Allergies and Your Pet



## What is an Allergy?

An allergy is a reaction of the immune system to a common substance known as an allergen. Allergens include; foods, pollens from trees, grasses and flowering plants; moulds, dust and storage mites.

Allergens can enter the body by inhalation, ingestion or even just skin contact. If your pet is repeatedly exposed to an allergen their immune system will react, often resulting in poor health.



Allergies can be immediate (classical) or occur within a few hours or days (delayed); a delayed allergy to foods is more commonly called an 'intolerance'. Detection of these allergies through traditional methods of trial and elimination can be a difficult and lengthy process.

## What are the symptoms of allergy?

The most prevalent signs of an allergy in dogs and cats are:

- Skin Problems - itching, scratching, face rubbing, paw chewing, hot spots or rashes, persistent licking and over-grooming.
- Ear Problems - swelling, itching and soreness.
- Gastrointestinal Problems - diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight problems
- Hair Loss
- Low Stamina and Energy Levels
- Behavioural Problems



## Identification of allergies

**SENSITEST**® tests are the only allergy tests that are manufactured and analysed in the UK. Your vet simply has to take a small sample of blood and send it to us. No need for sedation, shaving and skin prick testing.

The **SENSITEST**® allergy tests identify the level of antibodies in the blood that may correspond to the clinical signs of allergy. These results help pinpoint the offending allergen(s) and also the level of the reaction on a Class Score of 0-5. There are a range of tests available, and your veterinary surgeon will determine which are the most appropriate.

## Treatment of allergies

The results of a **SENSITEST**® allergy test will provide useful information for you and your vet in deciding the most suitable course of action.

If foods are identified as the cause of the allergy, then your vet will recommend a new diet avoiding problem food(s). You will need to ensure that any treats, snacks and/or palatable medication do not contain the offending food.

If environmental allergens (e.g. pollens, mites or moulds) are identified as the cause, then avoiding these completely may prove more challenging.

Following our test results we provide useful fact sheets as to how best avoid problem allergens. One of the most popular and effective treatments for environmental allergens is to provide a desensitisation vaccine\* tailored to your pet.

Your vet will advise you on the most suitable course of action and prescribe any medication, diets or vaccines your pet may need.

\* See **SENSITEST**® Immunotherapy leaflet.



## The difference a diagnosis can make

Identifying the problem and knowing how to overcome the symptoms can considerably improve your pet's quality of life. Here are what some pet owners have to say:

“ It's like having a new dog, full of life, far happier and healthier.”

We found the test very informative and amazing that a pet could be sensitive to so many things.

I was feeding all the wrong foods; his skin condition has all cleared up since eliminating them.

“ Taking this test was so much better than having to give tablets all the time.”

## Success stories

**Amber**, a domestic short-hair cat, was suffering from dermatitis; after initial work-up examinations allergy was suspected. A blood sample was submitted for a **SENSITEST**® allergy test, and a number of allergens were identified. After being put on a suitable exclusion diet, Amber's symptoms cleared up within a matter of weeks.



**Dusty**, a chocolate Labrador, was miserable with itchy skin that had become infected. A **SENSITEST**® allergy test revealed she was allergic to house dust mites and certain grasses, weeds and tree pollens. By controlling exposure to these allergens including treating the home for house dust mites and regular washing of her bedding all of Dusty's symptoms disappeared and she continues to be a happy, healthy dog.

