



BRIDGEWATER VETERINARY HOSPITAL



ALLERGY TESTING & HYPOSENSITIZATION

A simple blood test has been developed allowing us to check your pet for various substances that may cause his or her allergic reactions. A blood sample will be tested for sensitivity to grasses, trees, molds, hair, feathers, fleas, and numerous other known causes of allergy.

If your pet is found to be allergic to any or all of these factors, a special “vaccine” can be prepared. This vaccine attempts to desensitize your pet to those things known to be causing a problem. Three out of four pets are significantly helped by these injections.

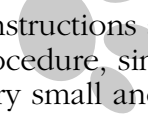
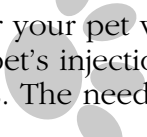
This vaccine may totally eliminate the allergic signs that are present, or at least decrease those signs to a level more tolerable to your pet. In most cases the vaccine greatly **REDUCES** the need for steroid-type medications to control the symptoms. These drugs, when used at high levels for extended periods of time, can have detrimental effects on your pet's health and life span.

The basic principle of desensitization (hyposensitization) is to inject small amounts of the substances known to cause the allergic signs, in increasing concentrations, and at regular intervals, in an effort to induce a tolerance of these substances. Over a period of weeks the dosage is gradually increased, but the frequency of injection is decreased. Hyposensitization represents a treatment option that should be explored, especially for a young pet or one that has a prolonged seasonal involvement. **Although hyposensitization does NOT provide a cure for allergy, it does produce improvement in 75% of the pets treated.**

The initial treatment program for those pets whose test shows a good possibility of successful therapy consists of a 3 vial set, sufficient for about nine months. If the pet has shown improvement during the first three-month series, it is imperative that the maintenance program be continued faithfully. We do not recommend continuing therapy if the initial nine-month treatment does not yield significant results.

Occasional allergy treatment may be required when acute flare-ups occur. The goal of hyposensitization is to decrease this number of acute attacks to the minimum possible. Remember, the hyposensitization procedure will not cure your pet.

Hyposensitization for food allergy is not highly successful and therefore not recommended.



If we recommend this program for your pet we will give you special instructions and teach you how to properly administer your pet's injections. It is a very simple procedure, similar to that followed by humans with diabetes. The needle used for injection is very small and usually not even felt by the pet.