

the

allerpet<sup>®</sup>

solutions



for people who are allergic to pets



and dust mites

## Hypoallergenic Dogs & Cats ... Fact or Fiction?

Stories have been making the rounds for years about certain breeds of cats or dogs being hypoallergenic.

The breeds referred to are always those with no hair, little hair or that do little shedding.

*It is unfortunate that these stories are not factual.*

*All* breeds of cats and dogs cause allergic reactions, *however*, it is possible for an occasional kitten or puppy from any litter of *any* given breed to be relatively free of problem causing allergens, thus giving the illusion that the breed is hypoallergenic.

This accidental happening is usually the source of the misinformation that follows it.

\* \* \*

**It is frequently possible for allergic persons to live comfortably with a cat or a dog if they will make an honest effort and commitment to care for their pet on a regular basis.**

A FORMAL STUDY OF ALLERPET AT UTRECHT UNIVERSITY SHOWED ALLERPET/C TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE FEL d 1 ON CAT HAIR AND IN HOUSE DUST  
*Study sponsored by Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany*

# ***THE ALLERGENS***

## ***PET-RELATED ALLERGENS ARE NOT FAR BEHIND DUST MITES AS MAJOR ALLERGY SOURCES***

**DANDER:** The first allergen to be blamed for pet-related allergies is usually dander, probably because it is so easy to see on the hair. Dander, another name for the dead skin cells that animals shed, is indeed an important allergen. All warm-blooded pets, regardless of hair length, produce dander that can trigger allergic reactions.

The principal difference between dander and the following allergens is its relatively heavy weight. Dander falls to the floor or furniture rather quickly, as opposed to Fel d1 which floats interminably in the air where it can be inhaled deeply into the airways of the lungs.

**FEL D1, THE CAT ALLERGEN:** Almost four out of five persons who are allergic to animals are allergic to cats. When you see someone who is allergic to them, you can be virtually certain that their problem is from Fel d1.

More Fel d1 is deposited onto the skin and coat by male cats than by females, both from the secretions of the sebaceous glands and from the cat's saliva during its self-cleaning process. The highest concentrations of Fel d1 are generally found around the genitalia and the base of the tail, but because the self-cleaning is an on-going process for most of the day, it is found over the entire animal.

As the Fel d1 (microscopic in size and invisible to the eye) dries on the skin and hair, it is carried into the environment by currents of air.

Fel d1 is an extremely potent allergen, capable of triggering an allergic reaction almost instantly. Continually airborne, it is inhaled with every breath. This is why a reaction can occur within a few minutes after entering a home inhabited by a cat.

**SALIVA AND URINE:** Along with dander, the proteins from saliva, urine and other body secretions are major sources of dog allergens. While they are not as potent as those of the cat's, it is of utmost concern that these allergens be cleansed from the hair as often as possible.

**DOGS:** In recent years, research has shown several breeds of dogs to have breed-specific allergens, however, no single breed has yet been found to be more or less allergenic than any other.

**ALLERPET HAS BEEN TESTED WITH THE LOVING, PURRING, LICKING CONSENT OF MANY FRIENDLY, WELL GROOMED, BEAUTIFUL CATS AND DOGS, INCLUDING OUR OWN.**

**ALLERPET IS UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED TO BE SAFE FOR PETS, FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**BIRDS:** Being caged does not prevent birds from scattering their feather dust into the atmosphere as they flutter their wings, preen themselves and move about. To minimize this, apply Allerpet/B using a trigger spray bottle to mist the bird as you would with water, spraying away from the head and towards the tail.

**SMALL ANIMALS & URINE:** Urine is of special importance with small animals such as rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils etc. Apply Allerpet/C as described in this brochure. Dry thoroughly with a towel. Frequent cage cleaning, fresh bedding and good ventilation are all important sanitary and health measures.

**ANY ANIMAL WITH FUR OR FEATHERS CAN TRIGGER AN ALLERGIC REACTION. THESE INCLUDE CATS, DOGS, RABBITS, GERBILS, HAMSTERS, GUINEA PIGS, FERRETS, MICE AND BIRDS.**

***OF THESE, CATS ARE BY FAR THE WORST OFFENDERS, FOLLOWED BY RABBITS AND DOGS.***

## **PETICULAR TIPS**

**ALLERGIES ARE CUMULATIVE:** Being allergic does not necessarily mean that you can't have a pet or that you must give up one that you already have. Learning more about minimizing pet-related allergies and making some minor adjustments will frequently solve your problem.

Allergies build up. If a person is allergic to animal allergens, they are also probably allergic to other substances found around the house . . . dust, dust mites, molds, mildew, feathers, paint, perfume, soaps, pesticides, and smoke.

Individuals who are allergic to animals may exhibit no noticeable symptoms when their total exposure to allergens is below their allergy threshold level, however, collect enough allergens in the environment to exceed this limit and troubles begin. The goal is to minimize exposure to indoor allergens that exceed tolerance thresholds and trigger attacks.

**PETS IN RESIDENCE:** The longer a cat or dog resides in a house with free access, the more likely it is that large quantities of Fel d1 and dander will have accumulated in carpeting, draperies, furniture and on the walls. Because of this, you might want to use Allerpet every 4 or 5 days for the first few weeks. *Opening the windows for an hour or so on a breezy afternoon will do wonders to cleanse the house of Fel d1.*

**DURING DRY SPELLS** and in arid climates, use a little Allerpet in a spray bottle between applications to moisturize the animal's hair. This will reduce the spread of allergens into the environment.

**THE BEDROOM:** Make every effort to reduce the dust and pet allergens throughout your entire home as much as possible. The room that should receive your most intense effort is the bedroom. Experts say that if you can breathe "pure" air for 8 to 10 hours each night, you can probably tolerate more exposure to allergenic substances during the day. Keep your bedroom as free of allergen catchers as possible: the furniture clean and simple; pictures or hanging decorations at a bare minimum; no magazines or newspapers. Nothing under under the bed. No clutter. No bulky drapes. No carpeting, especially deep pile or loop. The more washable surfaces, the better.

Walls collect and hold Fel d1. Use a long handled feather duster to dust the walls every few weeks. Dust the furniture often, using a damp dustcloth or a cloth moistened with a dust control spray. Vacuum rather than sweep. Use an allergy vacuum cleaner with HEPA filtration or add an electrostatic filter bag to your conventional vacuum to make it more efficient in picking up allergens. Air out the room often, daily if possible, preferably with a fan pushing the air out of a screened window.

**BEDDING:** Try to keep your pets out of the bedroom. If that is not possible, do your best to keep them off of your bed, especially your pillow. If you can't do this, encase mattresses, box springs and pillows in allergy-proof casings. Wash your bedding frequently with De-Mite® to get rid of the allergens that are always present.

**WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER HANDLING ANY ANIMAL. TRY NOT TO TOUCH YOUR FACE, ESPECIALLY YOUR EYES OR NOSE UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE SO. KEEP SOME CLEANSING TOWELETTES HANDY FOR EMERGENCIES.**

**AIR CONDITIONERS,** both window and central, can be beneficial during the appropriate season, but they also collect mold and can cause allergy problems if they are not cleaned regularly. If you have central air conditioning, you should have an air purifier as well to keep the same contaminated air from being continually recirculated.

**HEPA AIR PURIFIERS:** (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters can dramatically improve the quality of air in a house. The National Bureau of Standards indicates that HEPA air filtered units are 99.97% free of contaminating particles.

**CAT LITTER:** Dust from cat litter can aggravate allergies. Plain clay litter is less irritating than brands with deodorizers. Try various brands to find the one that produces the least dust. Pour the litter into the pan slowly to keep the dust from permeating the air. A gauze mask will help when changing litter. Look into one of the "clumping" litters.

**YOUR WELL BEING:** Avoid undue fatigue, emotional upsets, or any kind of stress. These may weaken the immune system to the point of triggering an allergic attack. Don't smoke. If you are the least bit allergic, smoking will increase your chances of respiratory and health problems and lower your tolerance threshold to other substances.

## ***THE ALLERPET SOLUTION***

**THE FIRST APPLICATION** of Allerpet can usually be done by the allergic person, however, if he or she is very sensitive, it is better to have it performed by someone else.

If your pet is small enough, especially if it is a cat, let it lay on your lap on a terrycloth towel where it will feel secure. Use a fine or medium toothed comb for cats and a pin or slicker brush for dogs to remove as much dead hair as possible. Break apart any mats or tangles.

Wet a washcloth with just enough Allerpet to make it damp, but not enough to drip when lightly squeezed. Use Allerpet/C for cats, rabbits and small animals or Allerpet/D for dogs, to cleanse the animal by running the cloth both with and against the lay of the hair, making certain to get down to the skin. Pay more attention to the areas that pets lick most often . . . around the genitalia and the base of the tail where urine residue tends to collect.

***ALLERPET IS NOT A CURE ALL . . .***

***but far more often than not it can help you to live more comfortably with your pet by removing its pet-related allergens before they have a chance to enter your environment.***

**SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS:** should be applied once a week as described above. It is safe to use Allerpet more often if necessary. Brushing or combing is not necessary before every application, but all dogs and cats should be kept free of tangles and dead hair for both your health and your pet's. Concerned care is part of responsible pet ownership.

**ALTERNATIVE 1:** Bathing your pet is an alternative to using Allerpet. It will definitely help, but is usually not as effective because of the needed preparations and the experience necessary to properly give a bath, but especially the knowledge of how to rinse the animal thoroughly. The need to go through this process on a weekly basis is a necessity, particularly in the case of cats. Weekly bathing without conditioning tends to dry out the coat and leave excessive dander after a period of time. Over-conditioning oils the coat, attracting dirt and allergens. A big advantage of Allerpet is that you can apply it while watching TV or just relaxing. Cats and small dogs love the grooming.

**ALTERNATIVE 2:** You should keep in mind that any professional groomer will brush, bathe and/or apply Allerpet to your cat or dog. You don't need to own a 'groomable' dog or cat to patronize them. Consider using one periodically between your daily groomings. This is a normal service, and the costs are small. You might even ask to have your pet's nails cut and ears cleaned at the same time.

<http://www.de-mite.com>



**De-Mite<sup>®</sup> ELIMINATES DUST MITE  
ALLERGENS THAT ARE A PRIMARY CAUSE  
OF ASTHMA AND ALLERGY ARISING FROM  
BEDDING AND WASHABLE CLOTHING**

The allergens originating from dust mites are probably the world's greatest cause of allergies and are significant triggers of asthma attacks. Estimates are that as high as fifteen to twenty percent of the earth's total population is allergic to the allergens produced by dust mites. Dust mites exist throughout the world, but mostly in hot, humid climates.

Dust mites are not parasitic and are not capable of biting or stinging humans. *Their importance is due to the powerful allergens contained in their fecal matter, exoskeletons, and secretions.* Inhalation of these allergens by hypersensitive asthmatic individuals can result in acute attacks of bronchial asthma, accompanied by wheezing and shortness of breath. Allergy symptoms can include stuffy, runny or itchy noses; red runny eyes; and sneezing.

The protein fecal material of dust mites is of primary health concern because it is inhaled so deeply into the lower airways of the lungs, especially from the bed while sleeping. High levels of dust mite allergens are also associated with atopic dermatitis, characterized by itchy, irritated skin.



## **1 DUST MITE CAN PRODUCE 250 OR MORE ALLERGENS**

**... AND YOUR BED CAN CONTAIN  
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM  
AND  
MILLIONS OF THEIR ALLERGENS**

Clear to creamy white in color, and less than 0.3 mm in size, dust mites are invisible to the naked eye as they continuously deposit their protein fecal pellets, exoskeletons and secretions onto sheets, pillow cases, blankets and mattress covers, as well as undergarments.

Dust mites thrive and multiply most rapidly with moisture, heat and food. Your bed is their palace. They have the heat of your body, the moisture your body emits, and the food of your dead skin cells... all that they need to sustain life and multiply.

This makes the bedroom the best place to start reducing dust mite allergens because of the amount of time one spends in bed sleeping. This is the room in which adults spend one-third of their time and children half of their time. The bedroom harbors the greatest number of dust mites.

To effectively eliminate the allergens emanating from these dust mites, wash your bedding regularly using De-Mite® Laundry Additive. De-Mite® should also be used when laundering undergarments, either by machine or hand.

Encase your mattress, box springs and pillows in zippered air-tight mite proof coverings. Choose washable mattress pads/covers, sheets and pillowcases, blankets or quilts, and launder them regularly, adding De-Mite® to the water. Vacuum and dust the bed frame frequently.

Here are some suggestions that can help to reduce the mite population and keep your home as dust free as possible.

Avoid heavy drapes and window treatments. Choose unlined washable curtains, vertical blinds or shades instead that are easy to clean and maintain.

Keep furniture at a minimum. Wood, vinyl and metal surfaces are preferable as they are easy to maintain. Avoid upholstered chairs and sofas; use leather or naugahyde when possible.

Don't make your bedroom a storeroom. The more items in a room, the more dust will accumulate. Eliminate such dust collectors as decorative pillows, dust ruffles, books, magazines, toys and knick knacks. Store your clothing and shoes in clean, uncluttered closets with the doors closed.

A recent study determined that carpets accumulate allergens at one hundred times the rate of bare floors. As carpets get old, they begin to harbor more and more allergens... exoskeletons and fecal pellets of dust mites, animal danders and saliva, house dust, indoor mold growths. Bare surfaces, such as hard wood and tile, are deterrents to allergen build-ups and much easier to keep clean.

Instead of carpeting, use area rugs. Wash them often with De-Mite® to eliminate dust mite allergens, danders and secretions. If you cannot remove your carpets, vacuum them regularly. If someone else can do the vacuuming, the allergy sufferer should stay out of the area at for least one-half hour until the air settles.

Conventional vacuums don't retain microscopic particles such as dust mite allergens, Fel d1 and pet danders, which are found by the millions in carpets. Yes, they do pick up these allergens, but because they are not capable of retaining small particles, they blow them back into the air you breathe. Use an allergy vacuum with HEPA filtration, or make your conventional vacuum more efficient by adding a special filter.

You might also try treating your carpets and drapes with special cleaning products that hold dust mite allergens and animal danders.

Your doctor may recommend using an air cleaner to reduce the levels of allergens circulating throughout your home. Indoor air, in today's energy-efficient, closed environment homes, is brimming with microscopic allergens, from dust mites to pet danders, all bottled up with nowhere to go.

A free-standing air cleaner can greatly reduce irritating allergens in the room of your choice. Always choose a true HEPA air cleaner, one that is capable of efficiently capturing microscopic particles. Air cleaners are only effective on airborne particles, not those that have built up in your carpets, upholstered furniture and bedding.

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