

## **Allergies**

### **General Information**

Pets that scratch excessively may be allergic to something. Some pets are affected at certain times of the year, while others have problems sporadically or even continually. Pets may be allergic to such things as flea bites, pollens, molds, grasses, trees, wool, tobacco smoke, certain foods and even other pets. Regardless of the offending agent (allergen), the main signs are scratching and chewing the skin, which may result in extensive skin damage. The damaged skin is then highly susceptible to bacterial infection.

### **Important Points in Treatment**

1. The best treatment is to determine the cause of the allergy and avoid it. As this is not always possible, various control measures are taken to relieve the itching and allow your pet to live comfortably.
2. Retreatment is often necessary and should be started at the first re-appearance of itching and scratching.
3. Some pets require continual treatment.
4. Regular bathing and grooming may be necessary to remove allergens from the coat and maintain a healthy coat.
5. *Medication:* Give all medication as directed. Call the doctor if you cannot give the medication.

### **Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur**

- Your pet's signs recur after an apparent recovery.
- Your pet's discomfort continues.
- Your pet's condition worsens or spreads.