

Welcome to Veterinary Allergy & Dermatology Services

We look forward to meeting you and your furry friend and working with you to manage your companion's skin issues. Allergies are a life-long problem and our goal is comfort for your pet and to formulate a long-term treatment plan that best suits you and your pet.

Your first visit is longer than a follow-up visit, taking a little over an hour. Follow-up visits are 30-45 minutes. What you can expect:

➤ Exam

- We will do as thorough an examination as your pet will allow. Many dermatological conditions require us to examine areas that most animals are more sensitive about such as the face, ears, feet, and belly. Please let us know if your pet is typically stressed or fearful when examined.

➤ Questions

- A lot of what goes into determining a treatment or diagnosis is history. While we get some information from records and the questionnaire, we like to get the finer details from you and that are unique to your pet and situation.

➤ Follow-up

- Skin problems are rarely solved in one visit. Many conditions require time and effort to determine an underlying cause. Follow-up appointments allow us to assess progress and adjust therapies to assure your pet is receiving the appropriate care.
- When your pet's conditions are managed medications do require a yearly exam.

➤ Updates

- We often ask for updates with a technician between scheduled appointments; these help us track your pet's progress and adjust treatments if needed.
- While we welcome updates, *if we receive more than 2* involved updates between scheduled visits, we may respectfully ask you to schedule an appointment or schedule a paid phone consult with the doctor.

➤ Allergy Testing

- Many pets are referred for "allergy testing." The accuracy and purpose of this test is often misunderstood by many people, including very well-intended veterinarians. Allergy testing **WILL NOT** tell you what you can remove from your home to make your pet better. Allergy testing does not diagnose food allergies. We will take time to discuss this testing, when it is appropriate to do, and how it is done, and decide if it the right thing for you and your pet.

Things to Bring with You to the Appointment

➤ Medications

- Any medications that your pet is currently taking or has recently finished (last 3-4wks). This includes:
 - Flea control, topical wipes, creams, supplements, any over the counter pills, creams, or shampoo. If you write a list, please include dosing and how often.

➤ Food

- Any food that you feed regularly. Please provide the exact name. This also includes treats and table food.