



Fort Street Veterinarian



MTWF: 7:00am - 5:30pm
TH: 7:00am - 8:00pm
SAT: 8:00am - 12:00pm

(402) 884-3383

www.fortstreetvet.com

Jerry Busselman, DVM
Shauna Tordrup, DVM
Christie Banks, DVM

14345 Fort St. Suite 500
Omaha, NE 68164



PET ALLERGIES:

HELP for You & Your *ITCHY* Pet

Does your pet...

Wheeze,
sneeze, cough
or snore a lot?

Have
bald spots
or sores?

Scratch at
ears and eyes
or have runny,
weepy eyes?

Vomit
frequently
or have
diarrhea?

Constantly chew,
dig or lick
paws, tail,
hindquarters
and belly?

Have
swollen paws,
open sores
or scabs?



If so, your poor furry friend may be suffering from fleas or allergies...making your life stressful, too.

While allergies and many skin conditions can't always be cured, they can be controlled. The first step is to bring your pet in for a physical exam so that we can diagnose the problem.

Here are some ways we can help you both.

Usual Suspects, Symptoms & Solutions

FLEA ALLERGIC DERMATITIS:

Flea Allergic Dermatitis (*FAD*) is the most common skin disease in pets, and flea control is often the fastest, easiest way to help an itchy dog or cat.

- **Pets with FAD react more strongly to fleabites** because not only are they bothered by the bites, they're also allergic to the flea saliva.

- **Very few fleas are necessary to trigger severe scratching, lesions, skin inflammation, hair loss and more.**

- Thanks to indoor heating, these parasites can "invisibly" exist year-round in your home torturing your poor pet.

SOLUTIONS: If fleas are the culprits, a year-round treatment with an effective medication such as **Revolution®** or **Bravecto®** can be prescribed for your cat or dog.



ATOPIC DERMATITIS:

Atopic Dermatitis is the second most common skin disease in dogs. This chronic, lifelong condition is associated with allergies and causes inflammation, rash and itchiness. This disease...

- Usually shows up within the first 3 years of a pet's life and symptoms usually get worse over time.
- Can be brought on by a host of allergens.
- Can flare up seasonally or plague your pet year-round.
- Can cause your pet's skin to become red, raw and itchy.
- Can cause hair loss, skin infections, ear infections and more.

SOLUTIONS: The best long-term solution for Atopic Dermatitis is allergy testing followed by allergy shots or drops under the tongue (*hyposensitization*). Similar to what people with severe allergies undergo, this great treatment works well for such a terrible condition.

SEASONAL ALLERGIES:

If your pet only scratches at certain times of the year, odds are your furry friend has a seasonal allergy to pollens, grasses, trees, etc.

SOLUTIONS: Antihistamines may be prescribed depending on your pet's condition. We'll work with you to find the most effective type and dosage.

To protect a pet with seasonal allergies, environmental management is important.

- Keep windows closed during peak seasons and limit outdoor time.
- When your pet goes outside, use a damp washcloth or baby wipes to clean his or her coat each time he or she returns, focusing on the legs, paws and underbelly.



CONTACT ALLERGIES:

If your dog or cat itches year-round, your pet may have an environmental allergy reacting to:

- Kitty litter
- Mold or mildew
- Household cleaning products
- Home sanitizers, perfumes or colognes
- Or more

SOLUTIONS: Antihistamines, or another allergy medication, may be prescribed but **here are some things you can do at home to help your pet:**

- Use an additive-free or dust-free pet litter.
- Try switching to asthma and allergy-friendly cleaning and laundry products.
- If possible, dust frequently and wash your pet's bedding often.
- Try eliminating scented air fresheners from your home.

FOOD ALLERGIES:

Food allergies are more difficult to diagnose but here are some indicators that your pet may have a food allergy. Your pet...

- Has symptoms that aren't seasonal
- Often is very itchy around the bottom
- Has eaten the same food for years
- Suffers from chronic ear infections

Food allergies can develop at any age and over time. In fact, a food that's been liked and tolerated for years can suddenly make your pet sick. Any part of the food can be the cause including the proteins, carbohydrates and additives.

SOLUTIONS: If a food allergy is suspected, a good hypoallergenic, prescription diet is often the treatment and we'll work with you to find the right one for your pet.

IF YOUR PET IS SUFFERING AND IN PAIN...

...or if symptoms are severe, a **corticosteroid treatment** may be required. While steroids should be used sparingly because of side effects, when used appropriately they can be highly effective in providing fast relief for your pet.

In addition, we have other effective treatment options available to help your pet.

For example, **Apoquel®** offers a new approach to itch relief.

Taken once daily, it works as fast as corticosteroids to alleviate the itching and pain of allergies and dermatitis but has fewer side effects.

Another new drug that's proving effective is **Cytopoint™**. A simple injection of this med, given at our clinic, can provide your dog relief within 1 day and lasts for 4-8 weeks. Damaged skin can begin healing within 7 days.



Please meet...

KENNY, THE SCRATCHY CAT



Once an allergy sufferer with a rash and raw belly, **Kenny** the cat today is seldom bothered by allergies thanks to the meds and food prescribed at Fort Street Vet.

Read Kenny's story on our Blog.

MOLLY, THE ITCHY POOCH



Molly, a 3-year-old Mini Goldendoodle, had seasonal allergies so bad her ears bled. Today, Molly is a peppy pooch that eats well, scratches less, and enjoys daily romping.

Read Molly's story on our Blog.