



LIESSE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Dr. R. J. Langill ~ Serving the community since 1950

FOOD ALLERGIES

Allergies to foods are not confined to people; pets may also suffer. Food allergies in dogs and cats account for less than 10% of all their allergies.

The usual symptoms of a food allergy in pets include itchy skin, skin rashes, and inflamed ears. Constant licking of the feet is also a common symptom.

Symptoms may show up within a few minutes, to 24 hrs. after eating the *wrong* food. Pets that have an allergy to a particular food have often eaten that same food for years without any previous reaction.

The most common causes of food allergies are beef, milk, pork, whey, and soybean. Most commercial pet foods have some of these ingredients in them, so simply switching foods usually accomplishes nothing.

To determine if food is causing the allergy, we must put your pet on a ***hypoallergenic food trial***. Veterinary prescription diets will be recommended, and you must ***not give any other foods or treats to your pet during this trial***.

After 8- 12 weeks of this new diet, if the allergy is gone, then a food allergy is assumed to be the cause. If the original food starts the allergy again, a food allergy is confirmed.

An effort is then made to find a commercial brand of food, which does not contain any of the allergic ingredients, and your pet should live a long, itch free life.