



LIESSE ANIMAL CLINIC

11575 Côte de Liesse Road, Dorval, Québec, H9P 1B4 ~ (514) 631-1533

<http://www.liesseanimalclinic.com> ~ info@liesseanimalclinic.com

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

SUMMER ALLERGIES

Seasonal allergies are very common in dogs and cats. Whereas people who have allergies have sniffles and swollen eyes, dogs and cats get very itchy skin, and they often scratch to the point of bleeding. Other common signs of an allergy in your pet is constant licking of the feet or fur, and recurrent ear infections.

The most common causes of summertime allergies in dogs and cats, is by plant pollen. The animal actually breathes in the pollen, and by a systemic reaction, the skin becomes red, hot, swollen, and itchy. If the allergen is from a plant or tree that sheds pollen only for a few weeks each summer, then the allergy will only last a few weeks. Common examples are Lilac trees (late Spring), and Ragweed (late Fall). If however, the allergen is a grass or tree pollen that is shed all summer long, then the allergy will last until the first frost.

Treatment for seasonal allergies is usually with cortisone containing medications. These are very effective, and most allergies are completely alleviated with this treatment. A common side effect of cortisone is excessive thirst, especially in dogs. Allergies that last longer than 1 month are candidates for some other forms of treatment, and your veterinarian may try antihistamines, combined with fish oils.

Allergies that last beyond the summer months are non-seasonal, and food allergies, dust allergies, and atopy must then be ruled out.