



Skin Allergy Testing Expectations

Below is a summary of events involved with skin allergy testing for you and your pet.

Day of testing

Your pet will be given a mild reversible sedative for the testing procedure. Please do NOT feed your pet after midnight the night before the procedure in preparation for sedation. If your pet's appointment is in the afternoon, you may offer a smaller meal for breakfast and then withhold food until the appointment. You may continue to offer water to your pet up until your pet's appointment. If your pet is diabetic, please contact our office for special instructions.

Please plan to leave your pet at our hospital for 1 to 1.5 hours for the test. A patch of hair on the side of your pet's chest will be shaved to perform the test. Once the test is finished, we will contact you with an update and discuss the time you may return to the hospital. Upon your return, we will discuss test results and demonstrate how to store and give the immunotherapy (allergy injections). You will give the first injection to your pet prior to leaving the hospital. Supplies will be sent home so you may continue immunotherapy.

Once the test is complete, you may restart any medications such as antihistamines or steroids that were discontinued prior to testing. If your pet wants to scratch at the test site, you may apply a cool compress over the area and/or place a t-shirt to cover the area.

After testing

At the start of immunotherapy, your pet will go through an "induction period". During this time, you will give injections to your pet more frequently at the beginning for the first few weeks after which the frequency will begin to decrease. Recheck examinations are important during this time to assess your pet's progress and make further treatment recommendations.

Please remember, the earliest a response is typically seen is 3 months while it may take up to 12 months in some patients to improve. Don't get discouraged! Symptomatic therapies as needed will be prescribed to keep patients feeling comfortable during this time. If your pet responds well to immunotherapy, treatment will be LIFE-LONG! Please contact our office when a refill of immunotherapy is needed.

We look forward to working with you to make your pet feel more comfortable! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. You may reach us at 918-299-4900 and by asking for the Dermatology service.