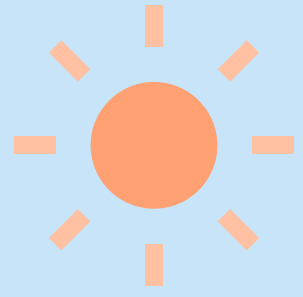


Ticks, Fleas, and Allergies



Seasonal allergies in the dog and cat are very different from humans. Dogs and cats show signs of allergy through their skin. They can seem itchy and develop infections of the skin and ears.

- Your veterinarian may recommend antihistamines as a first line of defense for mild seasonal allergies
- Over-the-counter antihistamines that contain decongestants can be toxic to dogs so be sure to follow your veterinarian's recommendations closely.
- Your veterinarian may also prescribe different medications to help control your pet's seasonal allergies and itchiness.

Many seasonal skin problems in dogs and cats are a result of exposure to ticks and fleas.

Ticks

- There are many species of ticks that can latch onto dogs and cats.
- Often times there is irritation at the site of a tick bite.
- Ticks can carry several diseases which are responsible for serious illness in dogs, the most common one being Lyme disease.
- Several of the diseases that ticks can transmit to dogs and cats can also be transmitted by the tick to people. Flea and tick prevention for pets also protects human family members.

Fleas

- The common cat flea, *Ctenocephalides felis*, infects both dogs and cats.
- In addition to skin irritation, fleas can cause anemia and, in certain situations, death – especially when young animals experience large infestations.
- Fleas can spread multiple pathogens such as tapeworms, cat scratch fever bacteria, and other bacterial diseases that can infect both people and pets.

To protect your pet from ticks and fleas, ask your veterinarian about which preventive products are best for your pet's individual needs

