Now You Have Two Choices for Pet Allergy Treatment

**What is immunotherapy?**
Allergen-specific immunotherapy (desensitization) is a safe and effective long-term treatment that gradually builds your pet's immunity to the specific allergens that are causing discomfort. Immunotherapy is the only allergy treatment that actually reverses the natural course of allergic disease, thereby reducing the body's sensitivity to allergens.

**How does immunotherapy work?**
Desensitization allows your pet's immune system to gradually become more tolerant to the specific allergens causing discomfort. It works by giving increasing amounts of allergen over time, beginning with a low concentration and increasing in strength until the highest tolerable dose is reached. Immunotherapy is now available in two forms: allergy shots and allergy drops. With two options now available for treatment, ACTT can better tailor effective immunotherapy treatment to accommodate your lifestyle and the comfort of your pet.

**How do I decide which treatment method is best for my pet?**
Allergy shots have been used in human and veterinary medicine with great success for several decades. Allergy drops are an ideal treatment option for owners or pets who are needle averse, or for patients who have a history of intolerance to allergy injections. Frequency of administration is a key to success with allergy treatment, and it is important that pet owners can commit to either treatment schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHOTS</th>
<th>DROPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>How immunotherapy is administered:</strong></td>
<td>Allergy drops are placed inside the pet’s mouth, either under the tongue, or inside the lip or cheek. Allergy drops should not be mixed with food or water.</td>
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<td>Allergy shots are given subcutaneously under the skin.</td>
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<td><strong>Treatment schedule and dose frequency:</strong></td>
<td>Allergy drops are given twice daily, AM and PM, every day.</td>
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<td>After a series of weekly loading doses for the first 3 months, allergy shots are maintained at frequency intervals of 14-21 days for the duration of treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Reactions:</strong></td>
<td>Reactions can include increased pruritis, face-rubbing, GI upset or lethargy. Systemic reactions are extremely rare and undocumented.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reactions can range from mild irritation at the injection site to local or generalized hives. Systemic reactions include lethargy, vomiting, or diarrhea. Anaphylaxis is extremely rare.</td>
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Visit ACTTAllergy.com to learn more.
Frequently Asked Questions:

Who will administer my pet’s allergy treatment?
Most pet owners choose to administer immunotherapy in the comfort of their own homes. When your treatment kit arrives, it will include a detailed set of instructions on how to administer allergy shots or allergy drops. Your veterinarian can demonstrate this for you, and make sure that you are confident in the process before sending treatment home with you and your pet.

What if my pet has a reaction to the allergy treatment?
It is very important to monitor your pet each day, and document any reactions to their allergy treatment. As with any medication, immunotherapy is not without risk or side effects.

Should you notice any of the following symptoms, call your veterinarian:
1. Drops – hives, increased itching, vomiting, unusual face rubbing, licking, or any other perceived discomfort.
2. Shots – hives, increased itching, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, or respiratory distress.

If any of these reactions occur, discontinue the treatment until you have consulted with your veterinarian. Do not attempt to troubleshoot your pet’s immunotherapy without the advice of your veterinarian. Most problems are easily managed with a small adjustment.

How effective is immunotherapy treatment?
Our veterinarians report that up to 80% of animals on immunotherapy improve with treatment. Pet owner compliance is an integral part of a successful desensitization program, this includes following the treatment schedule and adhering to any prescribed dietary changes. Failure to respond to immunotherapy is most often due to secondary contributors, such as untreated bacterial or yeast infections, undiagnosed food allergy, or untreated flea allergy. If your pet has been on immunotherapy for longer than 6 months without noticeable improvement, call your veterinarian. In many cases, a small modification in the immunotherapy protocol will lead to success.

Why do allergy drops have to be administered every day, twice a day?
Frequency of dosing is essential to the success of allergy drops. Drops are given twice daily, usually morning and evening. Twice a day dosing (AM and PM) provides constant stimulation of the key cells that are critical to building allergen tolerance, and leads to the most rapid symptom improvement. This is a very important factor to consider when choosing allergy drops. Pet owners must be able to commit to the twice daily treatment schedule. Allergy drops may not be given with food or water, and it is recommended that no food or water be given 10 minutes prior to and after administration.

Can I stop immunotherapy treatment when my pet’s symptoms clear?
If your pet is responding to treatment and symptoms disappear, do not stop! This means that desensitization treatment is working. It is important to remember that your pet’s body needs this continual dose of allergens in order for the immune system to maintain adequate levels of allergen-specific blocking antibodies.

How long will my pet need to be on treatment?
Based on recommendations by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, it is recommended your pet is treated for a minimum of 3-5 years. However, relapse can occur if treatment is stopped, so for best results your pet should remain on desensitization throughout its life. Remember, allergies are not curable but they can be successfully managed.