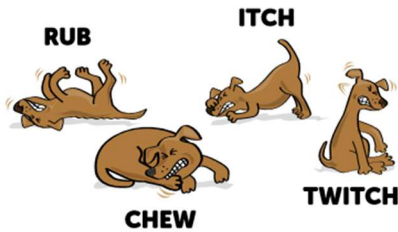


ITCHY DOG?



Dogs, just like people, can show symptoms of allergy when their immune systems recognise certain everyday substances as dangerous. Even though these substances are harmless to most animals, a dog with allergies will have an extreme reaction to them. The skin is one of the most common organs to show symptoms of allergy.

A few common allergens include pollens, dust and house dust mites, fungal spores, flea bites.

There are many others and we would need to run a number of diagnostic tests to find out the true cause of the allergy.

What about food allergies? Your dog may be allergic to some of the ingredients in their food, such as beef or pork protein, or wheat (amongst many others). It often

takes some detective work to find out what substance is causing the allergic reaction. Whatever the reason, a persistent itch is not only uncomfortable for your pet but distressing and frustrating for you as well. We can help determine if your dog's itch is due to an infection, parasites, or allergies.

Dog itch may be a medical condition that needs treatment. It's important to get to the underlying cause to help stop the annoying, irritating, painful itch, to give your four-legged friend some much-needed relief. Then they can get back to cuddling, playing, and sleeping in peace – without having to scratch all the time. Even though common at-home treatments, such as oatmeal baths, lotions, or topical over-the-counter medicines, may offer temporary relief of dog itch, they may not be getting to the root of the problem. Itching can be a medical problem that needs attention.

What effects can some treatments have on your pet? Your dog may be on prescription medications or you may try to reduce the itch with shampoos and creams – many of these management options can have unwanted effects on your dog.

Some therapies can have frequent side effects such as excessive urination and weight gain. Some of these side effects can increase the chances of your dog becoming ill with other conditions, such as diabetes. Topical creams or shampooing might form part of your daily or weekly routine and can provide relief to your dog as part of your overall itch management plan, but may not provide a long-term solution to the itching. Many dogs do not like to be bathed and for those, frequent shampooing may be distressing for both of you.

What are you and your dog looking for from an itch prevention plan?

FAST relief from itching: • starts to work within the first few hours • reduces the redness and soreness caused by scratching

Flexibility: • can be used to help short-term (seasonal) allergies or longer term (ongoing) itch • no interruption needed of other medications that your dog may need (e.g. vaccines, antibiotics, parasite control, shampoos) • doesn't interfere with important tests your vet may need to perform to diagnose the underlying cause of the itch

Reassurance: • infrequent unwanted or inconvenient side effects

Convenience: • simple daily medication • easy to give, with or without food

WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR:

- ✓ Excessive licking, chewing, biting, or scratching
- ✓ Excessive rolling, rubbing, or scooting
- ✓ Chewing, especially around the base of the tail and paws
- ✓ Recurrent ear problems
- ✓ Changes in the skin, such as sores or darkened colour
- ✓ Redness of the skin
- ✓ Body odour

Allergic dogs may also suffer from skin infections, which may cause hair loss, scabs or crusts on the skin.



Ask us today fast relief from allergic dermatitis

HOW DOES YOUR DOG'S ITCH AFFECT YOU?

- ✓ Expensive to treat
- ✓ Time consuming
- ✓ Inconvenient
- ✓ Stops me interacting with my dog



Our Open Evening

We had a very pleasant information evening followed by a "behind the scenes" visit of the surgery on 16th of August. As you can see from the photos, the nurses organised everything so it was easy to explain what happens to your pet when it is with us either for an operation, a dental, some blood tests, etc. Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to all the staff who contributed to this fantastic event.

We are planning a special evening on fireworks in October. We will keep you posted for more details on dates and registration.



Congratulations and Welcome!



Congratulations to Lydia! She has passed her final exams and is now a registered vet nurse. Lydia joined Adams Vets in August 2012, initially helping out at weekends whilst studying for her A levels, and started as a student Veterinary Nurse in April 2014. Lydia has always loved animals and she knew she wanted to work with them from a young age. Over the years she has had many pets, currently two cats - which were both strays she brought home, as well as two rats.

Yasmin has recently qualified with a degree in veterinary nursing and practice management and is due to graduate this month. Yasmin has worked at Adams Vets on and off since 2013 doing her work experience and university placements. She at last joined our team at The Lodge last month. She has a cat called Phoebe that she rescued in 2015, who likes to keep her awake meowing through the night to get out and play with the cat from next door. She has made a brilliant new addition to our team!

Karen has just joined our team at The Lodge as Head Nurse. Karen has been qualified for 18 years and has worked in referral and emergency out of hours clinics. She started her training at Adams Vets 20 years ago at The Lodge!! Outside of work Karen trains in MMA, competes in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and also helps coach the kids classes. She has a brown belt in kickboxing and a blue belt in brazilian Jiu jitsu. Karen has two cats, and a springer spaniel so if she's not in the gym training, she is usually outside somewhere with the dog! We are very pleased she is back!



Ask the Vet

Joanne Michael BVSc MRCVS

What household items are poisonous to dogs and cats?

At Adams Vets, we deal with many poisoning cases. If you suspect your pet has ingested a poison, please call us as soon as possible, as prompt veterinary treatment is essential.

Where possible, provide us with the following information:

- 1) What poison you think your pet has been exposed to
- 2) How much they may have been exposed to
- 3) When your pet was exposed to the poison
- 4) What clinical effects have been seen

Bring any relevant packaging with you to the surgery. Do not attempt to make your pet vomit, as with certain poisons, this is contraindicated.

Here is a list, from A to Z, of common pet poisons (please note that this list is not exhaustive and is intended as a guide to raise awareness).

Acetaminophen, also known as paracetamol, is a common painkiller. Some animals, particularly cats, are very sensitive to paracetamol and even a small quantity can cause anaemia and be fatal.

Batteries can cause ulcers in the mouth, oesophagus and stomach, as well as gastrointestinal obstruction. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine which is poisonous to dogs and cats. The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine it contains, and therefore the more poisonous it is.

Chocolate poisoning can initially cause vomiting and diarrhoea, but may lead to excitability, twitching, tremors, fits and heart disturbances.

Detergents such as benzalkonium chloride, are found in many household products including disinfectants, antiseptics and some patio cleaners. Pets can develop drooling, fever, and mouth ulceration after licking treated surfaces.

Ethylene glycol is found in antifreeze, de-icing agents and motor oils. Dogs and cats are attracted to its sweet taste, but as little as a teaspoon in cats or a tablespoon in dogs can cause kidney failure.

Fertilisers can contain poisonous amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron, zinc, herbicides and pesticides. Keep dogs and cats away from treated lawns until they are dry.

Grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas cause kidney failure in dogs, and potentially other animals too. The toxic mechanism is not understood and the quantity that can cause problems is very variable. It is important not to let your dog eat any foods that contain these fruits, such as hot cross buns, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, fruit cake, mince pies, stollen etc.

Household cleaners such as bleach, drain cleaners, ammonia and toilet bowl cleaners, can cause gastrointestinal ulcers and other problems in dogs and cats.

Insecticides in flea and tick products can cause problems if not used according to labels. Insecticides that are meant for dogs can cause severe toxicity in cats, leading to signs such as vomiting, seizures and difficulty breathing. Cats are very sensitive to permethrin and even a therapeutic dose for a small dog can be fatal to them. Products intended for treating the yard or house should not be used on pets.

Jerky treat-related illness. Fanconi syndrome, a kidney condition, associated with the consumption of jerky treats has been reported in pets in the US, Canada and Australia, with a few cases reported in the UK. Numerous products have been implicated and in most cases the products have originated from China. The cause remains unknown. Dog owners are advised to take care when buying food products for their pets online and to ensure they only purchase treats from reputable websites adhering to UK rules and regulations.

Kerosene, diesel, petrol, and white spirit, can cause skin irritation on contact, or gastrointestinal upsets and convulsions on ingestion.

Lilies are very poisonous to cats and can cause kidney failure. All parts of the plant are poisonous to cats. Even a small exposure to the pollen can be very dangerous. We would advise against having them in your house or garden.

Metaldehyde is found in many slug and snail killer products. The pellets are often eaten by inquisitive dogs and can cause rapid-onset convulsions which can last many hours.

NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen, are common painkillers. Ibuprofen is particularly toxic to dogs and can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, gastric ulceration and kidney failure.

Onions, garlic, leeks, shallots and chives can cause anaemia and gastrointestinal upset.

Poinsettias, the popular Christmas plants, can cause gastrointestinal upset.

Queensland nuts, also known as macadamia nuts, can cause lethargy, vomiting and difficulty walking.

Rodenticide ingestion can cause bruising and bleeding. It is important to note that not all rodenticides are anticoagulant, and therefore it is important to determine which type an animal has ingested.

Spring bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and crocus can cause gastrointestinal upsets in dogs and cats, and potentially more severe signs such as heart problems and breathing difficulties.

Tobacco. Ingestion of nicotine in the tobacco plant or in cigarettes or patches can lead to vomiting, tremors, collapse and death.

Unbaked bread dough can expand in the stomach. The yeast in the dough can also produce alcohol, leading to seizures and respiratory failure.

Vitamin D in multivitamins, rodenticides containing cholecalciferol, and psoriasis creams, can cause an excess of calcium in the blood, leading to weakness, profuse vomiting and diarrhoea, and increased thirst. As calcium levels rise it can cause muscle spasms, fits, heart problems, kidney failure and can cause the gut and lungs to become calcified.

Water containing blue-green algae (in various ponds, streams or lakes) can be harmful to animals. The effects can range from vomiting and diarrhoea (both of which may be bloody) to lethargy, effects on the heart and blood pressure, twitching, problems breathing, liver and kidney impairment or can even cause death shortly after exposure. Dogs are most commonly exposed when swimming, playing in or drinking from contaminated water. It is important to note that Sefton Park lake is currently affected, so to avoid contact with the water.

Xylitol is a sweetener commonly found in chewing gum, mouthwashes, toothpaste, breath fresheners, and sugar-free sweets. It can cause low blood sugar and liver failure.

Yard products, including snail and slug bait, herbicides and fertilisers, are all harmful for pets.

Zinc toxicity can happen when your dog or cat eats metal or coins. It can cause anaemia, as well as liver, kidney or heart failure.