Immunotherapy: A Guide to Treating Your Pet’s Allergies
Making a commitment to your pet’s health.

You have received ACTT™ Allergy Drops, a sublingual immunotherapy treatment kit for your allergic pet. This initial treatment kit includes three strengths of allergen in color coded bottles: green, blue and red. Also included are an individualized treatment schedule and the necessary pump(s). Keep this schedule in a safe place, and use it to journal and record your pet’s treatment progress. Please read these instructions thoroughly before administering allergy drops to your pet. If you have any questions, contact your veterinarian. Once the pump is attached, store bottles in an upright position. Refrigerate upon arrival but do not freeze.
What is Immunotherapy? (Immunotherapy, Desensitization, Treatment)

The immunotherapy treatment process is a partnership between you, your veterinarian and your pet. Also called desensitization or hyposensitization treatment, this is an effective, long-term treatment that gradually builds your pet’s immunity to the specific allergens that are causing your pet’s discomfort.

How does Immunotherapy work?

Drops with increasing concentration of allergen are given to your pet, beginning with a low dose, and increasing until the maintenance concentration is reached (red bottle). While there is no cure for allergies, they can be managed. With careful attention and dedication, immunotherapy can be a highly effective and safe treatment for your pet’s allergies.
A Single Treatment contains 3 bottles:

Set 1:
Green label — Weakest allergen concentration
Blue label — Intermediate allergen concentration
Red label — Strongest allergen concentration
(Same strength as the Maintenance/Refill concentration)

Double Initial Treatment contains 6 bottles:

Set 1: Includes Green, Blue, and Red bottles - Contains all grass, weed and tree pollens, animal and human danders, and indoor fiber allergens (cotton, kapok, wool).

Set 2: Includes Green, Blue, and Red bottles - Contains mold, dust mite, household dust and insect allergens.

When administering a double treatment set, Sets 1 and 2 should be given concurrently. Drops from Set 1 and Set 2 should be given on the same day, at the same time.
Administering the drops

Each ACTT™ Allergy Drop prescription is a custom formulation containing the specific allergens that are causing your pet’s discomfort. Frequency of dosing is essential to the success of allergy drops. Drops are given twice daily, usually morning and evening. Twice a day dosing provides constant stimulation of the key cells that are critical to building allergen tolerance, and leads to the most rapid symptom improvement.

Begin with the Green bottle*
Affix the pump to the bottle and prime the pump by depressing it several times until a drop is released. Your treatment set is now ready for use. To administer, rest the dispensing nozzle on the lower the lip between the gum line and cheek. Depress the pump quickly and firmly so that the dose is released. One pumping action contains the correct measured dose.

When transitioning between bottles, simply remove the pump and place it on the new bottle. Depressing the pump 4 to 5 times clears the pump of any remaining old allergen concentration, and facilitates the uptake of the new mixture. Do not rinse the pump under water when changing between bottles.

Allergy drops should not be mixed with food or water, as this will interfere with proper absorption of the allergens. Pets should not eat or drink for 10 minutes prior to, or following treatment.

*Remember, when administering a double treatment set, sets 1 & 2 should be given concurrently.
What if my pet has a reaction to the drops?

An important part of your job will be to monitor your pet following each dose and document any reactions in the space provided in this immunotherapy guide. As with any medication, immunotherapy is not without risk or side effects.

Sublingual immunotherapy is safe and effective. Incidence of serious systemic reactions is exceedingly rare and undocumented in the scientific literature. Reactions can include increased itching, mouth or face rubbing, GI upset, or lethargy. If any of these reactions occur contact your veterinarian so that adjustments to the treatment protocol can be made.
Modifying the dosage

All pets respond differently to immunotherapy. While most animals can tolerate the prescribed schedule, it is not uncommon for others to need dilution or dosage modifications. In immunotherapy, the “maintenance dose” for any animal will be the highest dose that the pet can tolerate without causing increased discomfort. In the majority of cases, this is the concentration in the standard red bottle.

In some cases, pets cannot tolerate the rate at which allergen doses are increased, and symptoms may intensify. If this occurs, your veterinarian should be contacted for dosage modification.

Owners should observe their pets carefully during the course of treatment and report any reactions to their veterinarian. Do not attempt to troubleshoot your pet’s immunotherapy without the advice of your vet. Most problems are easily managed with a small adjustment.

How effective is Immunotherapy treatment?

Our veterinarians report that up to 75% of animals on allergy drop immunotherapy respond favorably to treatment. Successful immunotherapy is based on a partnership between you and your vet. Pet owner compliance is an integral part in the success of our desensitization program, and this includes following the schedule and keeping to any prescribed dietary changes.

Failure to respond to immunotherapy is most often due to secondary contributors, such as untreated bacterial or yeast infections, or undiagnosed food allergy. If your pet has been on immunotherapy for longer than 6 months without noticeable improvement, call your vet. In many cases, a small modification in the immunotherapy protocol can lead to success!
When should I expect to see improvement in my pet’s condition?

Every allergic animal’s response is unique, and pets show progress at different rates. While some animals show improvement within the first few weeks of treatment, others will be more gradual, taking an average of 4-6 months. Remain patient and continue with the recommended treatment schedule.

How long will my pet need to be on treatment?

Based on recommendations by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, we recommend treating your pet for a minimum of 3-5 years. However, relapse can occur if treatment is stopped. For best results your pet should remain on desensitization throughout its life. Remember, allergies are not curable but they can be successfully managed.
Can I stop the 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 and you do not want to interrupt this process. Your pet’s body needs this continual dose of allergens in order to maintain the allergen blocking antibodies. Failure to maintain these blocking antibodies can cause a relapse and allergy symptoms will reappear.

What will happen if I forget to give my pet the scheduled treatment?

The provided treatment schedule should be followed as closely as possible. If you miss a few doses, simply resume the schedule as soon as possible. Do not attempt to “catch up” with missed doses. If more than a week has lapsed since treatment, contact your veterinarian for instructions.

When do I order a refill?

You will need to order refills through your veterinarian two weeks prior to the completion of the red bottle, as indicated on your treatment schedule.
# Treatment journal

Please use this space provided to keep notes about your pet’s treatment progress.

**Important numbers:**

Pet Specimen #: _________________________________
Vet Clinic phone number: ___________________________
Emergency Clinic phone number: ____________________

Symptoms at start of treatment:

________________________________________________
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Use the following “Itch Scale” to record your pet’s progress during treatment:

0 = None  1-2 = Mild  3 = Mild/Moderate  4-6 = Moderate  7 = Moderate/Severe  8-10 = Severe

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Treatment notes blue bottle

Symptoms at start of blue bottle:

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Remember to call and order your treatment refill as indicated on your treatment schedule.

Treatment notes red bottle

Symptoms at start of red bottle:

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Date:          Comments:      Itch Scale:____________________
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