

 **PURINA**[®]
PRO PLAN[®]
VETERINARY[™]
DIETS

Understanding your dog's

FOOD ALLERGIES



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Your Pet, Our Passion.[®]

What are food allergies?

Just like in human beings, some dogs are born more sensitive than others and therefore may also suffer from allergies. Although sneezing and eye irritation are common signs of allergies in humans, in dogs allergies more commonly cause skin irritation and itching, and/or intestinal upsets such as diarrhoea.

A food allergy is where the immune system reacts abnormally (over-reacts) to the presence of an ingredient – usually a protein – in the diet. Food allergies can develop at any age, but the majority of dogs are under three years old when diagnosed. All breeds are susceptible to food allergies.

Fortunately, many advances have been made in managing food allergies in dogs, and diets can play a major role in the management of food allergy.

Food allergy or food intolerance?

A food allergy involves an over-reaction of the immune system. The immune response is normally responsible for defending the body against foreign organisms such as viruses and bacteria, but occasionally abnormal responses develop to substances (like food) that are normally considered harmless.

Food intolerance is different to a food allergy as it does not involve the immune system. Some dogs (and people) cannot, for example, digest lactose (the sugar in milk). This can result in diarrhoea if too much milk is drunk, but this adverse reaction occurs without any involvement of the immune system.

The reason why some individuals develop an immune reaction (also known as 'hypersensitivity') to food proteins is not fully understood. Some cases may be due to abnormalities in the intestinal tract resulting in the immune system being exposed to proteins that would normally not be absorbed intact across the intestines.

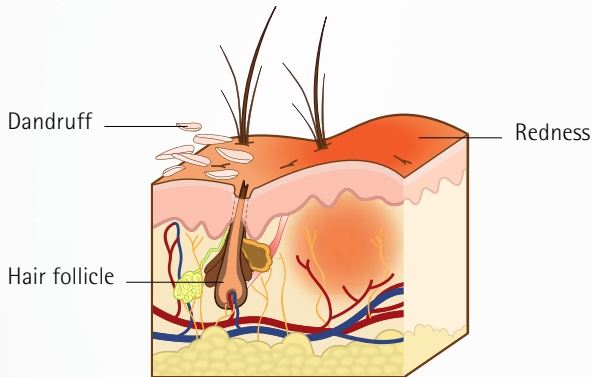


What are the signs of food allergy?

The signs associated with food allergies tend to occur all year round (unlike allergies to pollens which are often worse in the summer), and involve either the skin or the digestive system, or both. Skin signs include:

- Itching (especially of the ears, face, feet, tail, and abdomen)
- Skin redness
- Skin infections

Diagram of the skin of a dog with food allergy:



Gastrointestinal signs include:

- Flatulence
- Persistent vomiting
- Persistent loose stools
- Weight loss

None of these signs are specific for food allergies and can be seen with a variety of other skin and intestinal upsets. Your vet will suggest various additional investigations to try to find out what is causing your dog's signs.

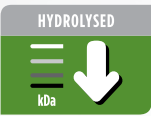
How does your vet determine food allergies?

The only reliable way to diagnose food allergy is a dietary trial using an 'elimination diet'. An elimination diet is one that is specially designed to avoid provoking an immune response.

Canine HA Hypoallergenic is a diet designed with a single protein and carbohydrate source, but in addition, the protein in the diet has been broken down (by a process called hydrolysis) to very tiny components that are too small to provoke an immune response. This is widely recognised as the best diet to feed during an 'elimination trial'.



Benefits of feeding Canine HA Hypoallergenic to your dog:



Single hydrolysed protein
With low molecular weight to help avoid allergic responses.



Purified carbohydrates
To reduce the likelihood of an allergic response occurring.



Added omega-3 fatty acids
To help maximise natural anti-inflammatory processes.

If your vet suspects your dog has a food allergy, you will be advised to feed them on an 'elimination diet' such as Canine HA Hypoallergenic exclusively for 6–12 weeks. During the trial, it is essential that you do not give any other food or treats, as these could be the source of the allergic response. If the signs resolve during that time, it is highly likely that a food allergy was the underlying cause. This can be confirmed, if desired, by re-feeding the original food to see if the signs recur.

Long-term management of your dog's food allergy.

Long-term control of signs in a dog with food allergy relies on continued avoidance of the food to which the dog is allergic. As Canine HA Hypoallergenic is a complete and balanced food for maintenance and growth, it can be used as a new permanent diet for your dog or your puppy. Alternatively, other diets based on restricted protein sources can be tried to see if these will also prevent the signs, but each diet must be trialled for a significant period to confirm its suitability and to ensure it does not provoke an allergic response.

PURINA®: a brand you can trust.

When you feed your dog Canine HA Hypoallergenic, you can be confident you are providing optimal nutrition, while helping minimise the possibility of food allergies. PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS are backed by strong science, so the latest nutritional findings can be applied to the development of effective and innovative formulas.

Feeding guidelines for Canine HA Hypoallergenic.

The following is recommended as a guideline only. You may need to adjust the amount fed to maintain your dog's optimal weight which is influenced by factors such as environment, activity, body condition and breed. Provide fresh water in a clean container daily. Canine HA Hypoallergenic is also suitable for puppies, please ask your vet for the feeding guidelines.

Don't forget! It is very important that you feed your dog only the recommended diet. No table scraps, milk, treats, or supplements should be fed, unless otherwise directed by your vet, as they may trigger an allergic reaction.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Body weight (kg)	Daily feeding quantities (adult maintenance – g/day)
2.5	70
5	110
10	175
15	230
25	325
35	410
45	485
70	655

For each additional 5 kg of body weight, feed an additional 35 g of food per day.

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Your veterinary clinic details:

**For more information about PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets,
contact your local sales representative or visit www.purina-proplan.co.uk/veterinarydiets**

Ask the Experts

**UK: 0800 212 161 IE: 1800 509 368 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday
Nestlé Purina UK Commercial Operations Limited, 1 City Place, Gatwick, RH6 0PA**

Please note that all indications for PURINA® PRO PLAN® Veterinary Diets mentioned in this leaflet are for the dietary support of dogs with the listed conditions and do not preclude appropriate medical management. The veterinary diets should be used under veterinary supervision. ®Reg. Trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.



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