



Intradermal Allergy Testing

What is intradermal allergy testing?

Intradermal allergy testing is where allergens (something your pet may be allergic too for example grasses, dust mites) are injected into the skin and the reaction to these allergens measured. This form of allergy testing is the gold standard method for determining what pets are allergic to.

What do I need to do prior to intradermal allergy testing?

Prior to performing intradermal allergy testing certain medications, most commonly steroids and antihistamines, need to be discontinued so they don't interfere with the results. Your pet will also have to be starved overnight as they will need sedated for this procedure.

What happens during intradermal allergy testing?

Firstly, your pet will be sedated in order to carry out this test.
A patch of hair will be clipped over their chest.
The sites of injection will be marked with a pen.
The allergens, and a positive and negative control, are injected into the skin using a small needle.
Reactions are measured.

Are there any adverse effects following the intradermal skin test?

Itching can occur at some of the positive reaction sites.
Anaphylaxis can occur but is extremely rare in the dog.

What are the next steps following intradermal allergy testing?

Following intradermal allergy testing it is important to discuss the results in order to determine what positive reactions are relevant to each individual patient. We can then start immunotherapy (see information sheet for further information). Additionally, once we know what your pet is allergic too you can implement measures to reduce their exposure to these allergens.