

CONTACT ALLERGIES AND LESS COMMON CAUSES

While food and environmental allergies are most frequently discussed, contact allergies and other rare causes can also lead to persistent symptoms in pets.

Allergies to Shampoos, Cleaners, Fabrics, and Plastics

Some pets develop sensitivities to chemicals such as household cleaning agents, detergents, certain fabrics, plastics in bowls or toys, and some grooming products, like shampoos or sprays. Contact allergies typically affect areas where the pet's skin makes direct contact with the irritant, like the belly, paws, chin, or chest. Clues include:

- Localized redness or rash after exposure to a specific object or surface
- Rapid improvement after removing the suspected irritant
- Other pets in the home remain unaffected



Eliminating and Replacing Irritants

- Switch to stainless steel or ceramic bowls instead of plastic
- Wash bedding and toys with fragrance-free, hypoallergenic detergents
- Choose natural-fiber bedding or clothing for pets sensitive to synthetics or wool
- Replace grooming products with fragrance-free, veterinary-recommended alternatives

Once the irritant is identified and removed, symptoms often resolve rapidly, though secondary infections or inflammation may require additional treatment.

Treatment Tips for Contact Allergies

- Protective balms can shield sensitive skin from direct exposure
- Check common problem areas frequently for signs of redness or irritation
- If symptoms persist despite eliminating suspected irritants, a vet may recommend topical anti-inflammatories, medicated washes, or further diagnostics.



Allergies in pets can significantly impact their well-being, but with proper diagnosis and treatment, they can usually be controlled. Chat with your veterinarian about treatment strategies tailored to your pet's unique needs to help them scratch that itch...or better yet, avoid it altogether.