



## Natural Healthcare for Pets

More people than ever are turning to natural methods of healing. This increasing awareness is leading us toward a healthier existence. We are starting to actively avoid the toxins and chemicals in our environment, and starting to eat healthier, more balanced, toxin-free foods. We are not the only ones who can benefit from this healthier approach. Our pets deserve the same natural holistic healthcare.

The number-one reason people bring their pets to veterinarians is skin problems. The most common diagnosis for these skin problems is “allergies.” The huge and ever-increasing number of allergies we see indicate a progressive inability in our pets to cope with our unnatural environment. A body can tolerate a great deal of toxins, but as our environment deteriorates, our pets’ degree of tolerance diminishes, until just a few grains of pollen or a small dietary indiscretion triggers an allergenic crisis.

An overly-sensitive immune system (allergen and toxin overload) can be managed (or treated) in two ways. First, suppress the immune system’s response to everything. Second, lower the overwhelming toxin level and heal the immune system so that it has a more normal response to allergens.

Conventionally the first option has been followed, using drugs such as cortisone to suppress the immune system. This works temporarily to relieve the itch, but leaves the animal with a lowered ability to fight disease. This approach treats the symptoms, but not the underlying problem: the depressed immune system. Eventually the immune system becomes even less able to handle environmental toxins. After a time, the animal is essentially “addicted” to, or dependent upon, cortisone, and eventually may develop side-effects from the drug that will cause them to develop a disease known as Cushing’s syndrome.

The second option, healing the immune system, is more difficult. Healing may take longer, but long-term results are much better. Dietary management is a step toward healing a pet’s immune system.