

# Protocol for ordering Immunotherapy

To order an Immunotherapy vaccine please send a VMD recommended prescription form (obtainable from the TDDS laboratory or website), along with a Special Import Certificate which can be obtained from the VMD website (please telephone the laboratory if you need instructions for this).

Fax both forms to (01392) 262354, or email to [s.r.l.still-tdds@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:s.r.l.still-tdds@exeter.ac.uk)

Allow 10 to 14 days to receive the requested vaccine.

The vaccine will be sent to you directly from the manufacturer by courier. Be aware that the vaccine needs to be stored in the fridge upon receipt.

## Individual allergens evaluated in the environmental and food screens and reported in the environmental and food panels:

### Grasses

Cocksfoot (Dactylis)  
Bermuda grass (Cynodon)  
Timothy (Phleum)  
Ryegrass (Lolium)  
Meadow grass (Festuca)

### Crops

Rape (Brassica)  
Oat (Avena)  
Rye (Secale)

### Weeds

Mugwort (Artemisia)  
Ragweed (Ambrosia)  
Goosefoot (Chenopodium)  
Nettle (Urtica dioica)  
Wall pellitory (Parietaria)  
Dock (Rumex)  
Plantain (Plantago)

### Trees

Birch Alder Hazel (Betulaceae species)  
Privet (Ligustrum)  
Beech (Fagus)  
Ash (Fraxinus)  
Willow (Salix)  
Cypress species Oak (Quercus)

### Moulds

Alternaria  
Aspergillus  
Cladosporium

### Mites

Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus  
Dermatophagoides farinae  
Tyrophagus putrescentiae  
Acarus siro  
Lepidoglyphus

### Flea

### Malassezia

Foods  
Beef  
Lamb  
Turkey  
Chicken  
Pork  
Venison  
White fish  
Blue fish  
Egg  
Milk  
Soya bean  
Corn  
Wheat  
Rice  
Barley  
Potato  
Sugar beet  
Yeast  
Oat  
Carrot



# Allergy Testing 2018

## Advances in Allergy Testing at TDDS

New refinements of monoclonal technology for detecting canine and feline IgE have enabled the development of ELISA tests which have overtaken previous methodologies using the high affinity mast cell IgE receptor. This combined with highly relevant selection of allergens for the UK provides a more complete and inclusive allergy service for veterinary practice. These changes prompted us to offer a new service for the serological diagnosis of allergy in dogs and cats in 2013. This has been a great success with excellent feedback on the quality and relevance of the tests.

### Improved features of the service

- Good value allergy screening tests for carefully selected environmental allergens, fleas, malassezia and foods.
- Expanded perennial and seasonal allergy panels with a wider selection of UK specific allergens.
- Complete allergy investigations including environmental panels, foods, fleas, malassezia, staphylococcus and sarcoptes antibodies.

## Clinical background

### Environmental allergens

Atopy is associated with increased concentrations of IgE directed against antigens found in the dog or cat's environment. These antibodies are located on the surface of mast cells in the skin and when the antigen binds to them inflammatory mediators are released resulting in the clinical signs.

Detection of these antibodies in serum where other causes of pruritus have been excluded clinically supports the presence of atopy. The action of these inappropriate antibodies can be effectively blocked in approximately 75% of cases using immunotherapy selected on the basis of the specific allergens to which the animal is sensitised.

### Dietary hypersensitivity

It can be very difficult to distinguish between atopy and cutaneous manifestations of dietary hypersensitivity. Conventionally this has required a minimum of a three week strict food trial using novel protein and carbohydrate sources followed by re-exposure to confirm that signs recur on repeat exposure, something many owners are reluctant to undertake.

Serological testing provides a rational basis for the selection of an appropriate trial diet based on the individual foods to which the dog or cat has mounted a serological response.

### Flea hypersensitivity

Diagnosis of flea bite hypersensitivity can be hampered by the absence of any fleas on the dog or cat at the time of examination making it difficult for owners to understand the importance of comprehensive flea control. Serology can help to identify IgE antibodies directed against fleas involved in type I hypersensitivity but a negative result serologically does not exclude all forms of flea hypersensitivity as this can be cell mediated.

### Malassezia hypersensitivity

Increased IgE antibodies directed against malassezia may be contributory to the clinical signs in atopy and the presence of these antibodies is identified with increased frequency in atopic dogs.

The serological test will not, however, identify cases of overgrowth with malassezia which can occur in atopy and other dermatopathies. As such, a negative serological result does not mean that involvement of malassezia can be ruled out.

### The effect of steroids and/or cyclosporine on serological testing

- Short courses of corticosteroids (up to 6 weeks) with anti-inflammatory doses are unlikely to affect the serum IgE levels
- Long-term treatment (> 6 weeks) with anti-inflammatory doses may affect IgE levels, it is advisable to withdraw treatment for 4 to 6 weeks before performing serological testing for IgE
- Treatment with cyclosporine for up to 5 weeks is unlikely to affect serum IgE levels
- Long- term treatment for more than five weeks may affect serum IgE levels and it is advisable to withdraw treatment for 4 to 6 weeks before performing serological testing for IgE
- Short courses of Oclacitinib (Apoquel) are unlikely to affect serum IgE levels
- It is uncertain whether long-term treatment affects serum IgE levels

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## Allergy Tests

Allergy Services	Sample	Code	£
Allergy screen (environmental) inc flea and malassezia	SE/S x3ml	s162	
Food Screen	SE/S x3ml	s163	
Allergy screen (environmental),inc food, flea and malassezia	SE/S x3ml	s164	
Perennial allergen panel upgrade	SE/S x3ml	s165	
Seasonal allergen panel upgrade	SE/S x3ml	s166	
Flea hypersensitivity	SE/S x1ml	s81	
Malassezia hypersensitivity	SE/S x1ml	s106	
Environmental panel inc flea and malassezia panel	SE/S x3ml	s167	
Food panel	SE/S x3ml	s168	
Environmental, food, flea and malassezia panel	SE/S x3ml	s169	
Complete Allergy, sarcoptes and staph	SE/S x3ml	s170	
<b>Optimal sample volume 3-5ml serum</b>			
<b>Turnaround: 7-10 days</b>			

## Application of the allergy tests

### Screens

Screening for increased IgE directed against fleas, malassezia, common allergens involved in atopy and for increased IgE and IgG directed against foods involved in dietary hypersensitivity.

Animals with positive screening results (reported as positive, negative or borderline) can be upgraded to full panels without additional sample submission. We recommend that borderline results are treated as positive.

Screens give broad allergen coverage at low cost with flexibility to upgrade as required.

### Panels

Individual IgE results are reported for environmental allergens including flea, malassezia, pollens from common UK trees, weeds, grasses, crops, moulds, storage and house dust mites. Where other differentials have been excluded previously panels offer the most cost effective route to allergen selection for immunotherapy and/or dietary trials.

## Result interpretation

### Environmental allergens

Environmental screen negative results: Atopy is unlikely to be the cause of the signs except where there has been no recent exposure to seasonal allergens. This can occur for example if testing a dog sensitive to grass pollens in winter, because of the methodology employed there is no indication to upgrade a negative screen to an environmental panel as all the individual results will be negative.

Environmental screen positive results: If other causes of pruritus have been excluded and immunotherapy is being considered, expansion of the screen to the full panel to allow identification of the individual allergens is appropriate. This can now be done selectively for the allergens involved.

If positive for perennial allergens only, adding the perennial upgrade panel is indicated. Individual results for house dust and storage mites and individual common moulds will then be reported.

If positive for seasonal allergens only, adding the seasonal upgrade panel is indicated. Individual results for tree, grass, weed and crop allergens will then be reported.

If positive for both perennial and seasonal allergens, adding the full environmental panel is indicated.

### Food hypersensitivity

Negative food screen results: Cutaneous manifestations of IgE or IgG mediated food hypersensitivity are very unlikely. This does not exclude other forms of food intolerance which could be associated with GI signs and in this context, a dietary trial may still be worth considering. Because of the methodology employed there is no indication to upgrade a negative screen to a food panel as all the individual results will be negative.

Positive food screen results: This indicates increased IgE or IgG antibody levels directed against one or more foods. Upgrading to the full food panel is appropriate to provide individual results for common protein and carbohydrate food constituents and ingredients. On the basis of this panel a rational exclusion diet may be selected.

### Flea

Negative results make type I flea hypersensitivity unlikely but need not exclude a type IV hypersensitivity response. Positive results are an indication for comprehensive flea control.

### Malassezia

Negative results do not exclude malassezia proliferation and appropriate therapy may still be indicated. Positive results are an indication for therapy.

### Juvenile Animals

**When tested, animals should be over 12 months old.** Animals less than 12 months of age may have false negative results, or positive results may be temporary and subsequently become negative as the animals immune system matures. This may result in animals needing to have a repeat test beyond 12 months of age.