

ALLERGY TESTING AND IMMUNOTHERAPY



In the past few years, our ability to use medications to manage canine allergy symptoms has greatly increased, with the release of new treatment options. Our allergy medications, including Apoquel, Cytopoint, and Atopica, treat the symptoms of your dog's allergies, making him or her itch less and suffer fewer secondary infections. However, because allergies tend to be life-long, it is possible that your pet may need these medications for his or her entire life, which can be costly and can have health implications.

There is one treatment option that addresses the cause of your pet's allergies, allowing him or her to rely on less allergy medication, or even eliminating the need for medication altogether. This treatment is called immunotherapy, and it consists of identifying your pet's allergens via allergy testing and then making up an allergy vaccine to desensitize him or her.

At CUVS, we perform both Intradermal (skin) and Serum (blood) Allergy Testing, depending on a careful consideration of which testing will be best for your pet. After identifying your pet's allergens, we come up with a plan to help your pet avoid these allergens, if at all possible. Because many of our patients are allergic to common, unavoidable environmental allergens, such as tree pollens or weeds, we make up their immunotherapy vaccines to include these allergen extracts. In so doing, we gradually train the immune system to ignore these allergens. As such, immunotherapy is the one allergy treatment option that can potentially cure your pet. Immunotherapy can be given either as small injections under the skin (subcutaneous immunotherapy), or in drops underneath the tongue (sublingual immunotherapy). Both methods are extremely safe and well-tolerated.