

SAS: Scituate Animal Shelter

Helping Massachusetts pets & the people who love them since 1992.



Tails Newsletter

Spring 2024

Cat allergies?

New options can help

Allergies to cats affect up to 25% of the population, causing sneezing, congestion, cough, itchy eyes, disturbed sleep, and for those with asthma, difficulty breathing. Symptoms occur when an individual's immune system becomes 'sensitized' to one (or more) common allergens present in feline dander, saliva and urine. The problem for those affected is compounded by the fact that the allergens attach to the cat's fur—and as any pet parent can tell you, cat fur does not necessarily stick with the cat, but instead

finds its way to pretty much every surface in the home.

All cats (even those reported to be hypoallergenic) produce allergens. Male cats produce more than females.



Immunotherapy can help. Traditionally delivered through a series of allergy shots over a 4-6 month period, there are now effective home options that promise relief for afflicted cat lovers without needles or the expense of allergy shots. One such solution is Curex, pills covered by most insurance providers.

New non-medical options include Respiray, a personal air purifier worn like a necklace that claims to reduce allergy symptoms from cats, dogs or hay fever. Another natural option? Many sufferers swear by Quercetin supplements. Quercetin is a plant chemical found in cruciferous vegetables, green tea, citrus fruits, and onions; it's been clinically shown to reduce allergy symptoms by reducing production of a protein linked to respiratory inflammation.



Oreo, adopted with sister Lulu in 2020, came to SAS due to her owners' allergies.

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