

**SOUTH FEDERAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1100 South Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316**

FOOD ALLERGY INFORMATION

1. Dogs and cats can have the potential to develop an allergy to a component in their food. This allergy can develop at any age and may result in a variety of signs, such as itchiness, redness of the skin, hair loss, chronic ear infections, vomiting, and diarrhea.

2. Common causes of allergies in animals are: ingested animal and fish proteins (beef, pork, lamb, chicken, horsemeat, egg, milk) and vegetable proteins (soy, wheat, corn). All brands of commercial pet food generally contain some of these proteins. Therefore, changing brands of commercial pet food is not sufficient, since most pet foods contain similar protein sources.

3. There is no simple, quick test to diagnose food allergy. The diagnosis is made by placing the animal on a diet that contains protein sources they have never had before, or a diet that contains microproteins (the protein molecules have been made very small by a special process, so that the body cannot recognize it, and thus, cannot be allergic to it).

The pet must receive the special diet for a total of 12 weeks. It is very important that your pet gets nothing but the special food and water. This means no rawhide chew toys, bones, dog or cat biscuits, tablescraps, chewable vitamins, and chewable heartworm preventative. You may choose to use the non-chewable type, or choose to use Revolution.

Acceptable treats are baby carrots, chunks of apple, or ice cubes.

4. Remember, if your pet eats anything but the special diet you will need to start the diet all over again!

5. After 12 weeks on this diet you should have noticed an improvement of the signs. You should then keep your pet on this diet or you can experiment with commercial diets to see if the signs return, until you find a diet your pet does not react to.

Please call our office with an update after the end of the diet to discuss the results.

