

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

It is that time of year. Which is a good thing, because it is green and smells of summer. But it is also a difficult time because of pollen. Let the sneezing begin.

Allergies are not just a problem for people but they may also be a problem for our pets. Allergens affect our pets in different ways, and your pet's symptoms will vary depending on the cause of his allergy.

Watch for these common signs of allergies in dogs and cats: Itchy, inflamed, or irritated skin, excessive biting, licking, or scratching at his skin, sneezing, wheezing, or snoring, swelling around the mouth, ears, or eyelids, diarrhea or vomiting, chronic ear infections, runny nose or watery eyes and/or swollen paws.

There are three main types of allergies that can affect dogs and cats: environmental, food, and fleas—all of which can lead to an itchy skin condition called allergic dermatitis. And when your pet incessantly scratches that itch, a secondary infection can result, making an accurate diagnosis of your pet's allergy and prompt treatment very important.

Pets can have environmental allergies to substances they're exposed to every day in their surroundings, whether it's in the home or the backyard.

Common environmental allergens include: Pollen, mold, grass and trees, dust mites, other animal dander or feathers. Pets may also be allergic to chemicals like perfumes, air fresheners, or cleaning agents.

While nearly any food or ingredient can cause an allergic reaction in a pet that is sensitive, the following are the top food allergens: milk, meat, including beef, fish, or chicken, eggs, soy, corn, and wheat.

Some pets have allergic reactions to flea bites, resulting in flea allergy dermatitis, an extremely itchy condition.

For pets diagnosed with allergies, avoidance is key. Sometimes the administration of allergy treatments is necessary when avoiding an allergen isn't feasible.

Here are helpful hints for mitigating your pet's allergies:

- Keep your pet up-to-date with preventive care and flea control.
- Feed your pet an allergy-friendly, veterinarian-approved diet.
- If your pet has a grass allergy, wash his paws when he comes back inside.
- To avoid mold and mildew, keep your pet indoors (except for potty breaks!) on rainy or humid days.
- Use other treatments as recommended by your veterinarian, such as medicated shampoos, skin creams, omega 3-6-9 supplements, and allergy serums.

Allergies can make life miserable for people and pets – but pets can make our lives full of love.

Congratulations to our Gift Certificate winner during our week of celebrating 30 years as an all-volunteer Thrift Shop: Ann Foeckler, Hunter Johnson, Sammie Allengarten, Donna Nickel, Janette Laberdie, Randy Terry, Tracy Williamson, Carrie, Rein, Katie Cox and Rhonda Bender.

Dates to Save: August 5<sup>th</sup> – NHS Tag Dat

August 30<sup>th</sup> – “BARK and ROLL” – Sawmill Saloon - 6:30 – 9 p.m. – Featuring the Been There Done That Band