

CatChannel Exclusive: How Much Do You Know About Cat Allergies?

Do you sneeze at the thought of a cat? How much do you really know about cat allergies, and keeping them at bay? Take our quiz and find out!

By Kristin A. Grant

(Correct Answers Below)

1. How many Americans are estimated to be allergic to cats?
 - a. 1 million
 - b. 6 million
 - c. 25 million
 - d. 100 million

2. About what fraction of people who are allergic to cats own a cat?
 - a. 1/10
 - b. 1/4
 - c. 1/3
 - d. 1/2

3. When people are allergic to cats, they are specifically allergic to what?
 - a. Fur and whiskers
 - b. Odor and shedding
 - c. Saliva and dander
 - d. Claws and paws

4. The cat allergen is more prominent in which of the following?
 - a. Male cats
 - b. Cats with longer fur
 - c. Older cats
 - d. Outdoor cats

5. How do cat allergens enter the human body?
 - a. Absorbed through the skin

- b. Inhaled through the nose
- c. Enter through the mouth
- d. Enter through the ears

6. People who are allergic to cats may exhibit which symptom around cats?

- a. Sneezing
- b. Wheezing
- c. Hives
- d. All of the above

7. Which of the following is one way to reduce the presence of cat allergens?

- a. Bathe your cat weekly
- b. Avoid brushing your cat
- c. Feed your cat a special diet
- d. Reduce contact with your cat

8. Cat dander can be found in which of the following places?

- a. Carpet
- b. Pillows
- c. Furniture
- d. All of the above

9. Placing an air filter in a room can reduce airborne cat allergens by what percentage?

- a. 25 percent
- b. 50 percent
- c. 75 percent
- d. 100 percent

10. Allergy shots accomplish which of the following?

- a. Mask the symptoms of cat allergies
- b. Provide immediate relief to cat allergies
- c. Build up immunity to cat allergens
- d. Act like an allergy antihistamine medication

11. To best remove cat dander from clothing and bedding, wash the items in:

- a. Cold water
- b. Tepid water
- c. Warm water
- d. Hot water

12. Which of the following is a way to keep cat allergies at bay?

- a. Use a steam cleaner on furniture
- b. Wash your hands regularly
- c. Keep your cat isolated to one area
- d. All of the above

13. How many allergy shots are typically needed within the first three months of starting such a program?

- a. 5
- b. 15
- c. 25
- d. 40

14. Which of the following is one type of severe allergic reaction to cats?

- a. Heart attack
- b. Seizure
- c. Asthma attack
- d. All of the above

15. How large is a typical, single cat allergen?

- a. Microscopic
- b. The size of a visible piece of dust
- c. The size of a pinhead
- d. The size of a raisin

16. Which of the following has been proven to reduce cat allergens in the home?

- a. High efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum
- b. Fluorescent lighting
- c. A standard duct system
- d. All of the above

17. Which of the following products reduces a cat's allergen-release?

- a. An additive for the cat's drinking water
- b. An over-the-counter pill for the cat
- c. A special sweater for the cat to wear
- d. A coat-spray obtained from veterinarians

18. Which of the following home modifications helps reduce allergic reactions?

- a. Replace tile flooring with carpet
- b. Replace curtains with blinds
- c. Replace wooden furniture with upholstered furniture
- d. Add wallpaper to painted walls

19. Cat dander can linger for how long in a room after a cat has left the area?

- a. Up to one day
- b. Up to one week
- c. Up to one month
- d. Up to several months

20. If a cat is confined to one room, cat dander will likely be found:

- a. Only where the cat sleeps
- b. Only in that room
- c. Only on that floor
- d. In the entire house

Kristin A. Grant is a freelance writer based in Baton Rouge, La., where she lives with her four cats: Max, Jasmine, Daphne and Sushi.

Answers
19) D 20) D

In May 2007's CAT FANCY:

Can a cat and an allergic person live together in the same house? Absolutely! CAT FANCY shares how.