

Stop the Itch!

A single fleabite, fungal disease or food allergy can cause constant scratching.

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Environmental allergies can be diagnosed in two ways. The gold standard is skin testing, just as physicians do in people, and generally this must be performed by a veterinary dermatologist. Blood testing for allergens is easy, quick and effective. I use both methods, and only send patients to a dermatologist if this test does not yield a diagnosis.

If the allergy is seasonal, we'll often treat the cat with antihistamines. Steroids will also control allergies, but come with several unwanted side effects. Therefore, I generally recommend staying away from steroids. Sometimes a trial run of antihistamines is warranted. I would then recommend a withdrawal of the antihistamines if the itching and scratching are under control, then monitor the condition.

I wish you and that little Munchkin all the best.