FOOD ALLERGY AND FOOD INTOLERANCE

Food allergy and food intolerance are abnormal reactions to a food or ingredient that is normally considered harmless. In people, allergic reactions can be caused by foods such as shellfish or peanuts. In pets, a common protein, such as beef or dairy, is often the trigger. Eating foods that cause an allergic reaction can result in gastrointestinal (GI) upset and/or skin inflammation that causes the pet to itch and scratch.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF FOOD ALLERGY OR FOOD INTOLERANCE?

- GI upset that causes vomiting, diarrhea, excess gas or weight loss.
- Skin reactions that result in intense itching and scratching, which can involve the ears, face, feet, tail and stomach. Itching can cause red, irritated skin.

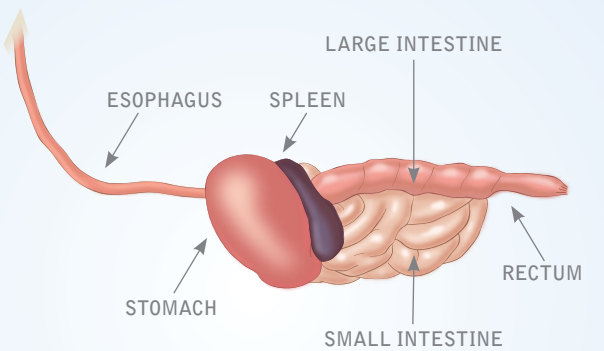
HOW CAN I HELP MY PET WITH FOOD ALLERGY OR FOOD INTOLERANCE?

Pets with food allergy or food intolerance can live normal, healthy lives and stay symptom-free as long as the offending foods or ingredients are avoided. Even minute portions can cause an allergic reaction, so owners must constantly be on guard against exposure, feeding *only* the hypoallergenic diet and treats recommended by the veterinarian.

HOW LONG SHOULD I EXPECT THIS CONDITION TO LAST?

Food allergy and food intolerance are chronic conditions that last the life of your pet. The good news is that they can be successfully managed if you carefully follow feeding instructions from your veterinarian.

THE GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM



Allergic reactions can result in gastrointestinal upset that causes vomiting, diarrhea, excess gas or weight loss.

Consult your veterinarian about specific questions you have regarding your pet's health, and be sure to follow his or her instructions.

PURINA VETERINARY DIETS®

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