

# Derm Digest

Indianapolis IN • Louisville KY • Marietta GA • Pasadena CA  
Marina del Rey CA • San Diego CA • Tustin CA



Animal Dermatology Clinic  
Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

October 2011

## Food allergy diets and ingredients



*Photo taken from our archives of a former patient diagnosed with a food allergy.*

Chicken? Soy? Wheat? Food allergy is a “disease” often bandied about by the lay public as a common cause of a pet’s poor skin condition. According to Dr. Wayne Rosenkrantz of Animal Dermatology Clinic (Tustin), “Food allergies are not as common as one would believe based upon the numerous specialized diets that are now available to the public.”

If a food allergy is suspected, one of the keys to identifying the allergen is to undergo a food elimination trial. The process requires that all previous fed foods, treats and supplements are eliminated from the diet and the pet is then fed a novel diet. “Novel” means a food which contains proteins that have not been previously fed.

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## Two satellite clinic locations added in CA

Two new satellite locations have recently opened in California.

Clients in the Southbay and West Los Angeles areas will be pleased to learn that satellite clinics are now open a little closer to home.

Unfavorable traffic conditions in Southern California should not come as a surprise to local residents, but these two satellite clinics will ease the drive time to see a veterinary dermatologist to treat your pet.

Torrance, CA: Animal Dermatology Clinic will be seeing patients in the Eye Care for Animals building at 4240 Artesia Blvd, Suite 101, Torrance, CA 90504. Dr. Laura Wilson will be the dermatologist at this location. To make an appointment in Torrance call 949-936-0066.

Culver City, CA: Animal Dermatology Clinic at City of Angels Veterinary Specialty Center is the site of our new Westside satellite office. This multi-specialty hospital and emergency center now adds Animal Dermatology Clinic to the roster of other talented specialty veterinarians at this location. Dr. Allison Kirby is now seeing patients at this location. To make an appointment in Culver City call 310-822-3376.

For maps, please visit our website at [www.animaldermatology.com](http://www.animaldermatology.com)

***Food allergy diet, continued***

Some pet owners attempt to take on a food elimination trial by simply changing commercial diets or “eliminating” a specific ingredient to help isolate a possible food allergy using retail pet diets. This is not a sufficient testing approach.

According to a recent study of food antigens in pet food, the source of the product may affect your results (“ELISA testing for soy antigens in dry dog foods used in dietary elimination trials” C. Willis-Mahn, et al.)

This study tested for soy in four dry pet foods carrying the claim “made with no soy”. Samples of each were sent to an independent laboratory. Three of the four diet “no soy” samples tested positive for soy antigen. The conclusion of the study was that dog food diets that claim to contain “no soy” may contain high concentrations of soy protein antigen and therefore should not be considered for soy elimination trials. This is likely the same for other ingredients in many other foods as well.

Similarly, consideration must be taken in manufacturing processes where cross contamination may occur. Packaging for all OTC products generally take place on the same machinery and residual food product may be placed into packaging for another specialized diet.

Your family veterinarian may sell prescription diets and can offer guidance to ensure that your pet receives a nutritionally balanced diet during the food elimination trial.



*Food allergy and atopy are now under control as shown in this photo taken many months later.*

**Food allergy patient loves home cooking**

*Some pet owners enjoy preparing home cooked meals for their pets. Nutritional balance is important.*

For years Patti W.’s bulldog “Britney” suffered from itching and skin problems. She had been maintained on chronic corticosteroids to control the itching but that began to lead to a complication condition called calcinosis cutis. This is an accumulation of calcium in the skin generally caused by excess steroids in the system. These complications led to additional skin infections with many visits to her veterinarian. One episode was so severe that it required Britney to be taken to Animal Emergency Clinic in Grand Terrace, CA. The doctor that examined Britney recommended that Patty take her dog to a dermatologist.

Patty never knew that veterinary dermatologists existed, but she made an appointment to see Dr. Rusty Muse (Tustin).

Once the doctor got Britney’s infections under control, work was started to uncover the primary cause of her misery. Dr. Muse suspected a food allergy based on her history of nonseasonal year round itching and Britney was placed on a home-prepared food elimination trial.

Ultimately after a lengthy process of test diets and rechallenges with various proteins and carbohydrates the perfect menu was found for Britney. “We found that Britney can eat pinto or refried beans, canned yams and lamb. But not canned lamb because that seems to cause her problems,” says Patti.

“I cook her meals a week in advance. People who hear this story for the first time cannot believe that I do this, but I would do it again and again,” she said.

Britney’s last check-up found her condition to be completely controlled and has been for a long time. No itching and no steroids. Don’t feel sad for Britney, owner Patti says that she still gets treats in the way of canned green beans. Yum!

## Pet food mix, just add meat for balanced diet



There are many pet owners that are happy to create a home cooked meal for their pet whether it is for a food allergy or the simple satisfaction of creating a home cooked meal for their pet (see accompanying story “Britney”).

Products available from a company run by board certified veterinary nutritionists and through ADC offer the benefit of a complete and balanced diet and a home cooked meal for your pet with some added convenience.

Balance IT Original Blends® are uniquely fortified potato flakes or oats that allow you to quickly and easily prepare fresh meals with your choice of meat, poultry, fish or vegetarian protein sources. Some owners add fresh vegetables for appearance or added flavor (never add onions or garlic).

Certain special diets may be prescribed for pets that are undergoing a food elimination trial, or if using Balance IT® supplements, for pets that have multiple health conditions that cannot be managed with available commercial foods.

Two Original Blends for canines are available (pictured above) that can help you to cook a complete and balanced fresh dog food. Each package is enough for one month based on a 35-pound dog.

To learn more about using Balance IT Original Blends® or Balance IT® supplements and recipes to feed your pet fresh food, please visit their website at [www.balanceit.com](http://www.balanceit.com) or ask your ADC dermatologist.



## Did You Know?

Researchers studying what dogs like to eat have found that the appetite of pet dogs is affected by the taste, texture and smell of the food, and also by the owners' food preferences, their perception of their pet, and the physical environment in which the dog is eating.

The average canned or dry cat meal is the nutritional equivalent of eating five mice.

Dogs have far fewer taste buds than people -- probably fewer than 2,000. It is the smell that initially attracts them to a particular food.

Cats must have fat in their diet, because they can't produce it on their own. Never feed your cat dog food, because cats need five times more protein than dogs.

If your dog thinks you're the greatest person in the world, don't seek a second opinion.

Jim Fiebig

## Pet Events in Your Area

The following events are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to attending as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events.

### Long Beach, CA

Sunday October 30 **We'll be there!**  
 Long Beach Pet Parade  
 4900 E. Livingston, Long Beach  
 Noon - 5pm, parade at 2:30pm  
 Fee for parade entrants. Spectators and visitors are free. Billed as The World's Largest Halloween Pet Event, it draws hundreds of entrants and thousands of spectators. Vendor booths, events and pet adoption. Bring your camera! More info at [hautedogs.org](http://hautedogs.org).

### Pasadena, CA

Race for the Rescues at Rose Bowl  
 Sunday October 23 8:30am - 12:30pm  
 1001 Rose Bowl Dr., Pasadena, CA 91103  
 Open to the Public, Dog Contest/Race \$10 - \$37. 5K, 10K run/walk and kid's fun run to raise funds for ten non-profit rescue groups. Adoptions, fun activities for all ages, silent auction and MORE! Info call 323-899-5640 or [info@therescuetrain.org](mailto:info@therescuetrain.org).

### San Diego, CA

Weekend October 15 -16  
 Fall Pet Expo  
 Del Mar Fairgrounds  
 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.  
 Del Mar, CA 92014  
 \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors 65+, kids under 15 free. The Pet Expo feature great entertainment for the whole family, seminars by pet experts, exhibits of pet products and services for happy and healthy pets. More information at [SanDiegoPetExpo.net](http://SanDiegoPetExpo.net)

### Atlanta, GA

Saturday October, 22 noon-5pm  
 Walk n'Wag  
 Family Festival and Pet Parade presented by UPS  
 Lenox Park in Brookhaven (Atlanta)  
 Benefit for Ahimsa House a non-profit organization dedicated to helping human and animal victims of domestic violence. Pet Parade, contests, activities, raffle and much more. See [www.ahimsahouse.org](http://www.ahimsahouse.org) for more details. Come with or without your pet!

### Indianapolis, IN

October 29 -30  
 Show hours: 11am - 6pm Saturday  
 9am - 5pm EDT Sunday  
 40<sup>th</sup> Annual CFA Cat Show  
 Indiana State Fairgrounds - Northwest Pavilion, 1201 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Come see the finest felines at the Cat Fanciers Association cat show. For more information contact [www.indycatclub.com](http://www.indycatclub.com)

### Crestwood, KY

Now through Oct. 30  
 Barkitecture at Yew Dell  
 Yew Dell Gardens  
 6220 Old Lagrange Rd.  
 This exhibit is free with regular \$7 admission. Free for members and children under 12.  
 A celebration of architectural design, done canine style! Dog houses over-the-top created by the area's most creative architects, designers and builders. Every Sunday dogs are allowed on the grounds. Info: [yewdellgardens.org](http://yewdellgardens.org) or 502-241-4788