

Allergic Contact Dermatitis

Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) is a type of allergy that requires direct contact between the substance and skin. It causes little red dots, pimples or blisters that appear 4-72 hours after the contact has occurred.

The most common causes of contact dermatitis are:

- Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia* spp.)
- Succulent ground covers (*Commelinaceae*)

Rare causes:

- Plastics (feeding bowls)
- Concrete
- Floor polishes
- Chemicals (including those found in some leather collars)

How is Contact Dermatitis Treated?

Medical treatment for contact allergy usually requires short term use of topical or oral cortisones. Antihistamines and other simple treatments are usually not enough. If the substance can be physically avoided, the dermatitis should settle within 7-10 days but your pet should be bathed after exposure. Prevention of contact dermatitis relies on avoidance. If avoidance is impossible then some medications may help and the specialist dermatologist can assess your pet and devise the best strategies to manage this problem.