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ALLERGY – DANDERS AND EPIDERMALS

Up to two-thirds of households in the United States have some type of pet. While dogs and cats are the most popular, recent years have given rise to the popularity of other animals such as rodents, birds and reptiles.

Individuals who are allergic to epidermals may experience symptoms of clear nasal drainage, sneezing, itching of the throat, burning eyes, asthma, shortness of breath, dermatitis, coughing, etc. Many believe that the animal hair or dander causes allergic reactions. Recent studies, however, demonstrate that saliva and urine are also major factors. Cat dander and saliva seem to cause the most allergic manifestations. Dog dander and saliva are also major factors, as well as rodent urine.

The home is the primary source of exposure. Individuals working in research labs also have a greater risk of daily exposure. Those considering a move will benefit by inquiring as to whether former residents of the home had pets. Steam cleaning the carpet may be helpful in reducing the amount of dander, but will not eliminate all of it.

Since the offender is usually a family pet, there is generally great reluctance to remove the pet from the home. Products such as Allerpet inhibit the release of dander. The allergic patient may find relief in using products such as these and by bathing the animal frequently. It has been established that washing a cat, for example, reduces the levels of dander and epithelium to which you are exposed. It is very important to keep the pet out of the allergic patient's bedroom. Never allow the pet to sleep with the patient. If these efforts are ineffective, it is advisable to remove the pet from the home for at least 1-2 months. If symptoms are reduced, permanent removal may be the only answer.

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