

ADVERSE REACTIONS TO FOODS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Like people, animals can develop allergic or intolerance reactions to one or more components of their diet.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?

An adverse reaction to food usually occurs against animal or vegetal proteins. Generally, the animal must take the food for several weeks or months before developing an allergy.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Adverse food reaction can develop at any age, even in very young individuals. Symptoms of this disease are itching, skin redness and often otitis. In some individuals these may be associated with gastrointestinal disorders such as vomiting and diarrhea.

DIAGNOSIS

To date, serologic tests and intradermal skin tests are not reliable diagnostic tools for allergic food reactions and the diagnosis is made by a food trial.

It is very important that during this trial period the dog or the cat do not eat anything other than the established food, therefore the complete cooperation of the owner is essential.

If the animal has a food allergy after the first few weeks of the trial the itching should decrease significantly until it disappears and remain so throughout the period of the diet. The trial is concluded by reintroducing the diet previously consumed by the animal, and if a reappearance of itching is observed, the food allergy is confirmed.