

**lissa.scott**

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**From:** lissa [lissa@lissa.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 02, 2005 5:47 PM  
**To:** extmagdrl@yahoogroups.com  
**Subject:** [ExtMAGDRL] DOE TOPIC #16: Slurp, Slurp, Slurp

Hi All,

There's one thing that will make me sit bolt-upright in the middle of the night -- the sound of incessant licking. It's like the drip-drip-drip of a leaky faucet, like the sound of nails on a blackboard, like hearing a dog having a high-pitched yapping fit!

I'm sure most of you know that licking is a common sign of allergies, but the challenge is in finding out what your dog is allergic to. Allergies may be environmental (insects, parasites, air borne, etc.) food, disease, vaccine, chemicals, or systemic deficiencies. Interestingly, I saw on several web sites that most dog owners think diet is the biggest culprit, but it's only found to cause 20% of canine allergies. What an opportunity to educate our members as Dog Owner Education Topic #16!

If your dog has a persistent licking problem, your veterinarian is your first line of defense. However, there's an encyclopedia's worth of information on canine allergies spread across dozens of web sites, far too much to summarize here. Instead, I'm sharing some of the best links I've found on the subject of canine allergies:

1. There's an FAQ on a myriad of causes of allergies here:  
<http://www.faqs.org/faqs/dogs-faq/medical-info/canine-allergies/>
2. There's information on diagnostic testing here:  
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1587&articleid=504>
3. Here's an article on holistic approaches to treatment of canine allergies: [http://www.petsage.com/art\\_aller.htm](http://www.petsage.com/art_aller.htm)
4. And here's a site with treatment options for non-dietary skin allergies;  
<http://www.discountpetmedicines.com/atopica-and-dog-skin-allergy.htm>

You could spend weeks researching this topic, but this can get you started. As always, thanks for educating yourself to benefit dogs and their owners!

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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

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