

THE PET CONNECTION

By Deb Waldron

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF ITCHING GOING ON!!!

We're into those "Dog Days" (pun intended :) of summer, and often we notice our pets scratching more than normal. You may be noticing some other symptoms along with the excessive scratching such as dry flaky skin, rashes, hot spot sores, or excessive licking. Here's a check list to consider when you are trying to solve the mystery of what is causing your favorite furry friend to suffer these problems.

1. Are you applying or administering flea control regularly?
Those nasty bugs are out in force this time of year, fleas, ticks, spiders, and ants all can inflict bites that are both painful and itchy. Be sure that you are protecting your pet with either topical or oral pest control regularly.
2. Are you feeding a quality pet food, free of artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives?
Food allergies are possibly the most common cause for excessive itching and scratching, for more info on this topic check out the Pet Connection column in the August newsletter.
3. Have you recently replaced carpeting or other flooring in your home?
While tile and wood floors are generally not a problem, new carpeting is especially full of chemicals which your pet (or you) may be allergic to.
4. Do you use Febreze or other furniture and air deodorizers?
Again, that clean fresh smell comes at a cost, more chemicals that can cause skin irritations. You might try something natural, like making your own deodorizing spray using essential oils.
5. Are you bathing your pet too much or with an inappropriate shampoo?
It is better not to bath your pet more than once every three or four weeks. If you feel you need to do it more often be sure to use something mild like baby shampoo.
6. Is your pet stressed or nervous?
Some pets are just nervous by nature, but sometimes the stress is environmental. Is there some construction going on in your home, or has somebody new come to visit or live with you?
7. Have you had your pet tested for allergies?
Our pets can suffer from the same types of allergies that people do, everything from grass and pollen, to food or house hold cleaners. Testing can get expensive, but if you have addressed the above simpler solutions to no avail this is an option.

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in a future column of The Pet Connection? Email them to : Debbie@PamperedPawsSalon.com

PAWS FOR REFLECTION

"A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal." - Proverbs 12:10