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Management of allergic disease in domestic animals: Current practices and new horizons

Michael A Rossi

Coastal Veterinary Dermatology & Ear Clinic, USA

Statement of the Problem: The understanding of the role of allergies in domesticated species continues to evolve rapidly. New data is being compiled to contribute the understanding of this multifaceted condition. The underlying pathogenesis for varying aspects of allergic disease, the impact on the human-animal bond and clinical management of the condition have all become areas of immense interest in the recent past. Statistics have shown that allergic diseases account for a majority of expenses accrued by owners at the veterinary hospital. It is also a center of frustration for concerned owners and veterinary surgeons alike due to its chronic, relapsing nature. Proper understanding of the disease itself, as well as the treatment options at the veterinary surgeon's disposal, are crucial in the proper management of the patient.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: An in-depth review of allergic disease in domesticated species will be provided followed by discussion revolving around therapeutic options. Focus will be on the understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease, including new, scientific findings. Once an understanding of the nature of the disease is obtained, a review of diagnoses and treatments, both new and old, will be addressed. The goal of this discussion will be to help the veterinary surgeon better understand how to diagnose their patients and when to use appropriate treatments at their individual practices.

Conclusion & Significance: Understanding the ever changing face of allergic disease in animals is of global importance. By the end of the presentation, veterinary surgeons should have a better understanding of the pathogenesis of the disease, how to properly diagnose the different aspects of the disease, and how to better manage their patients. With better management of allergic disease, veterinary surgeons will be able to provide owners with an improved quality of life for their patients and better the human-animal bond.

mrossi@vetmail.lsu.edu