

ATOPY – What You Must Know Now With This Diagnosis:

YOUR DOG MANIFESTS “ATOPY”: Atopy is *BY FAR* the leading cause of FOOT LICKING, itching-dermatology, grass-eating and ‘foam-barfing-sometimes-with-food-in-it’ visits among dogs in Marietta.

What is ATOPY?

Well, it’s **Ground-Level-Micropollution** making the feet, skin, airways and eyes break out in pinks and reds.

What’s Ground-Level-Micropollution **G.L.M.P.**?

I abbreviate it because typing **“Ground Level Micro-Pollution”** is giving me carpal tunnel ha ha ha – **GLMP** is composed of **pollen**, exhaust-powder (**smog** on the ground) plant dander, pinestraw-dust, cedar-shavings-dust, dust mites in carpet, cigarette smoke in the house. **How many of these are “at play” at your house?** It’s so much worse in Cobb County because we have 4x more GLMP than anywhere else in the US.

By the way, ALL smoke settles eventually. It’s just microscopic particles which have mass and weight however small. Rain ‘washes it in’ and helps. Cobb is in what Sierra-Club environmentalists call the **“I-75 Corridor”** which is an **airflow ‘dead spot’ that settles most of I-75’s smog on our yards.** (scorecard.org)

Here are the actual symptoms in order of commonality. Most pets have at least numbers 1-5:

1. Foot Licking ☒
2. Rust Stains on feet ☒
3. Chewing and scratching ☒
4. "Pinking" of the skin. ☒
5. Dry brittle coat ☒
6. "Pinking" of the ears. ☒
7. Chronic "spit ups" and GRASS EATING*☒
8. Chronic ear infections ☒
9. Sneezing and Reverse Sneeze ☒
10. Mild conjunctivitis ☒

*Atopy makes the sinus run juices down the back of the throat and makes foamy mucus in the stomach, pets experience nausea and they may throw up foamy mucus-bile.

CRUCIAL SIDE-DISEASES: Spit can introduce bacteria to the skin and grow yeast.

MOST COMMON CO-INFECTION (Co-Morbidity) Spit can introduce yeast into the feet and skin

1. You can’t fix atopy if there is ALSO a germ in the skin
2. You can’t fix atopy while there’s still GLMP in the fur and feet
3. You can’t fix atopy while there’s yeast in the feet and webbing.

Vets used to fix the Atopy (or try to) and accidentally overlook the stuff that was going on in the skin that seems to ‘keep it going’. **For example trading ‘foot licking’ from ATOPY turning into ‘foot licking’ from Spit-Yeast.**

You: “Why won’t my dog stop licking his feet? Why isn’t the atopy under control?”

Me: “Maybe the atopy actually is fixed. Maybe the foot licking NOW is actually just red yeast.”

Atopy Treatment

KEY POINT: Atopy is only *controlled*, never “cured”

The easiest and most effective way to control Atopy is the injection of CYTOPOINT, but it's restricted for use in dogs with ATOPY but who are without secondary infection.

Cytopoint is an injection (vaccine) which makes a dog IMMUNE to inflammation caused by Atopy, allergy, flea bites. The dog LITERALLY develops antibodies to one of its own inflammatory enzymes (Jak-5). It's essentially a *vaccine*.

Cytopoint will NOT work (at all), in dogs with concurrent bacterial or yeast infections. So, for some, there's a need to “kick off” with medicine to downregulate skin ‘diseases’ and rapidly segue into Cytopoint.

Most dogs need Cytopoint every 4-6 weeks but variations into months exist.

Cytopoint is pretty expensive. Well, it is for **large** dogs anyway.

- Steroids work. They have side effects.
- Antihistamines work, sort of. ‘Helpful’ is a better description.
- Wet wash cloths to remove smog and pollen help a LOT
- Spraying the feet with “Blue Spray” (chlorhexidine) washes off smog and pollen AND simultaneously kills “Spit-Yeast”. `

Since you can IMMUNIZE “allergy” now, contemporary practitioners recognize that allergy-skin-tine-testing is just a profit-center now. This is because pretty much no matter what the dog is allergic to, you can break the allergy cycle (at least as it manifests in the skin) with Cytopoint.

- **APOQUEL CAUSES CANCER.** It's been *outlawed* for use in people, and there are instructions in the package on how to safely manage a broken pill. You do NOT want this on your skin or in your airway and yet FDA allows us to give it to our dogs. We're going to try *NOT* to use that but some people insist in the direst cases and I sometimes agree. I've had seven cases on it with the full consent and disclosure of the owners. Two dogs are already dead. If a dog goes on Apoquel with infection already in the skin*, it will abscess.

*For example if ordering from an online pet pharmacy, most of which don't need a legitimate prescription.

Many dogs are managed only with:

1. Antihistamines
2. Wash cloths and wipe downs
3. Foot sprays with chlorhexidine solution
4. Pantene
5. Similasan for atopic eye conditions

More severe Atopy may need:

1. Cytopoint
2. Steroids
3. Eye Medicine

“Monotherapy” (one medicine or technology) is seldom completely effective.