Myth 2 : Food allergy is the NO. 1 cause of skin allergy in dogs

Is your dog experiencing intense scratching and licking? Is their skin red or inflamed?

Someone claimed that their dog suffers from scratches, bites, and licks at skin due to food allergy. **In fact, only 0.2% of dogs suffered from food allergies**, whereas **Flea Allergy Dermatitis is the most common** allergy in dogs.

As the PAWrent to furkids, understanding the factors and the types of allergies can prevent them posing the risk of secondary infection. Incorrect assumptions can otherwise lead to adverse medical outcomes.

Let's understand the general 4 types of skin allergies. If your dog is still suffering from allergies, please bring them to visit a vet for further treatment.

1. Flea Allergy Dermatitis

Flea Allergy Dermatitis is **the most common in dogs** which is caused by **flea bite**. The antigen or protein found in the saliva of fleas causes an intense itching to sensitive dogs

2. Canine Atopic Dermatitis (Atopy)

It is the **second most common** allergic condition in dogs. This is an inherited predisposition to develop allergic symptoms following repeated exposure to substances called "allergens". Examples of allergens are **grass, mold spores, house dust mites** and other environmental allergens.

3. Contact Allergy

It occurs when certain substances contact the dog's skin and causes allergic reaction like itching. Examples of skin irritants: **rubber, plastic, rug, metal, soap, detergent**, etc

4. Food Allergy

Food Allergy is an allergic reaction to a food. Antibodies are produced against some part of the food usually a protein or complex carbohydrate.

This can be the most difficult to diagnose and manage. The most accurate method to diagnose food allergy is through elimination diet which should be closely monitored by the vet.

Most common food allergens are proteins from dairy products, beef, chicken, beef, lamb, soy or gluten (from wheat).