

HYPOALLERGENIC PETS

Wikipedia.com

For allergy sufferers, a hypoallergenic pet might enable them to have a pet in their home, whereas most dogs, cats, rabbits, and other fur-bearing animals can make their lives miserable. The proteins that cause allergies are found not only in the animals' fur or hair but also in saliva, urine, mucous, and hair roots and in the dander sloughed from the animals' skin.

Some dog breeds have been promoted as hypoallergenic, such as the Afghan Hound and the Yorkshire Terrier whose coat (hair) does not shed and is the same pH as human hair creating no dander, Maltese, Bichon Frisé, Shih Tzu, West Highland White Terrier, Poodle, Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, and the Schnauzer, and Portuguese Water Dogs are sometimes good choices for those who have allergies, because some of these dogs do not shed their hair or shed very little.

It is a common misconception that the amount of hair a dog contains acts as the trigger for people suffering from allergies and asthma. The true cause of their suffering is due to the dog's skin dander. Therefore hairless or short haired dogs, although they many not have much hair, their skin dander will still trigger allergic reactions. No dog is completely 100% hypoallergenic. With the recent trend in poodle mixes (goldendoodle, labordoodle ect.) it is best to purchase a second or third generation puppy. Often puppies produced from the first generation lack the characteristics of a poodle, which make them ideal for allergy suffering owners. The best test to determine whether your allergies will be affected is to spend 20 minutes in a closed off and confined area with the dog (cars tend to work well). This is a simple test which can save the owner from heartbreak in the future.

Cat breeds such as the Sphinx, Devon Rex and Cornish Rex, which lack some or all of the normal layers in cats' fur, are believed by mild allergy sufferers to be significantly less likely to provoke an allergic reaction than other breeds. Siberian cats are also believed by some to have such properties.

A company called Allerca recently claimed to be able to produce a so-called hypoallergenic cat using gene silencing, but it has now instead used traditional breeding methods, starting with cats that naturally lack the gene that produces the glycoprotein Fel d1 causing an allergic reaction in some people. However, no peer-reviewed studies have confirmed the company's claims and some scientists are skeptical of the company's assertions. Allerca is currently accepting orders for hypoallergenic kittens. Another company, Felix Pets, also claims to be developing a breed of hypoallergenic cat.

There is only one known hypoallergenic horse breed. The Bashkir Curly horse has a uniquely textured coat that lacks the protein (present in all other horse fur) believed to be the source of allergic reactions to equines. Many people with severe allergies to horses can handle Bashkir Curlies with no reaction.

Hypoallergenic dog breeds:

American Hairless Terrier
Basenji
Bedlington Terrier
Bergamasco
Bichon Frisé
Bolognese
Border Terrier
Bouvier des Flandres
Cairn Terrier
Chacy Ranior
Chinese Crested
Coton De Tulear
Fox Terrier (Wire)

Giant Schnauzer
Hairless Khala
Havanese
Irish Water Spaniel
Kerry Blue Terrier
Lagotto Romagnolo
Lhasa Apso
Löwchen
Maltese
Miniature Littlefield Sheepdog
Miniature Poodle
Miniature Schnauzer
Native American Indian Dog
Peruvian Inca Orchid

Portuguese Water Dog
Puli
Shichon (Shih Tzu / Bichon mix)
Shih Tzu
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
Spanish Water Dog
Standard Poodle
Standard Schnauzer
Tibetan Terrier
Toy Poodle
West Highland White Terrier
Xoloitzcuintle
Yorkshire Terrier

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