



## **Dog Adoption Information: Allergies**

Unfortunately, doctors are finding more and more that there is no such thing as a truly "hypoallergenic" cat or dog. The only animals that are truly hypoallergenic are scaly animals (lizards, snakes, etc.)

The breeds you may think of as hypoallergenic are actually *less* allergenic: often, people with allergies won't react to them, but if the allergy is severe, even those breeds can cause a reaction. All dogs produce allergens, and each individual person reacts differently to each animal. So, if your allergy is mild, you may be able to find a dog of any breed that you don't react to. PAWS rarely gets any purebred dogs, so you may want to look for a breed-specific rescue for those. We do often get mixed-breed dogs that appear to have the type of hair that people often react to less, but it all comes down to the individual.

If you have allergies, we recommend that spend at least 30 minutes petting and touching a dog you are considering adopting. Then, wait at least a few hours to see if you have a reaction. You can also bring home a towel with the dog's hair on it to continue to spend time with those allergens, and help ensure that you are not allergic to that particular dog.

If you find a dog that doesn't cause problems, you can come back and adopt! The timing of process can get a little tricky, since we cannot hold animals, so it is possible that the dog may be adopted by the time you can come back. However, it's a system we've found usually works well.

Please understand that puppies DO NOT produce their adult allergens yet, so they are not eligible for this testing. Dogs must be at least one year old for the test to be accurate.

Please also note that this allergy test - and all of our matchmaking services - are available to you once your adoption application has been approved.