

# Jason A. Ohayon MD FRCP(C) FAAP

Consulting Allergy and Clinical Immunology  
For Adults and Children

---

1685 Main St. West Suite 201 Hamilton, ON L8S 1G5 905-777-0088, fax 905-777-0018

## **Hypoallergenic Pet Myths**

Many breeders now claim to have "hypoallergenic pets" (cat, dog, etc). Unfortunately, **there is no such thing as a hypoallergenic pet.**

Allergens from pets such as a cat or dog include not only allergens present on its skin, but also potentially in its saliva. Allergy is not associated necessarily with the "hair" itself; an allergy to animal dander is related to shedding, but more so the skin (similar to dandruff in humans). Sometimes hairless animals can be the worst offenders for allergy since there is direct contact with the allergen secreted from the skin.



Amount of allergen present varies animal to animal, but there is not a consistency in amount of allergen related to breed. Therefore, it is not possible to have a guaranteed hypoallergenic pet.

