

AXIOM
ALLERGY VET

"For Allergy Testing In Cat, Dog & Horse"

Allergen Information

Mites



Your Veterinary Surgeon will tick which allergens your animal has tested positive to.



House Dust Mites (*Derm. pteronyssinus*, *Derm farinae* & *Eurogliphus maiwei*)

The house dust mite (sometimes abbreviated by allergists as HDM), is a cosmopolitan guest in human habitation. Dust mites feed on organic detritus such as flakes of shed skin and flourish in the stable environment of dwellings. House dust mites are a common cause of allergic symptoms worldwide. Some of the gut enzymes (notably proteases) produced by the house mite persist in their faecal matter, and can be strongly allergenic. The European house dust mite (*Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*) and the American house dust mite (*Dermatophagoides farinae*) are two different species, but are not necessarily confined to Europe or North America.



Derm farinae



The house dust mite survives in all climates, even at high altitude. If trying to control house dust mites, humidity should be kept low. House dust mites thrive in the indoor environment provided by homes, specifically in bedrooms and kitchens. Dust mites survive well in mattresses, carpets, furniture and bedding, with figures around 188 animals/g dust. Even in dry climates, house dust mites survive and reproduce easily in bedding (especially in pillows) because of the humidity generated by the human body during several hours of breathing and perspiring.

**Eurogliphus
maiwei**





**Derm.
pteronysinus**



Storage Mites (*Acarus*, *Tyrophagus* & *Lepido*)

Several species of mites infest stored foods and other organic debris such as grain, flour, cereals, dried fruits and vegetables, cheese, dried milk, ham, sugar, pet foods, paper, etc., and may also infest areas where moulds have formed, as well as bird and animal nests. They generally prefer a moist, damp location. Sometimes the surface of infested material may appear to move due to the enormous number of mites that are present.

Lepido



Also, a coating or small piles of brownish 'mite dust', consisting of living and dead mites, cast skins and faeces, may appear on open shelving, around the base of food packages, or in other foods where infestations have developed.





Acarus



The commonest food mites are *Acarus*, *Tyrophagus* & *Lepido*. All are barely visible, usually less than 0.5 mm long, and more or less translucent with darker mouthparts and appendages. Prolonged contact with mite infested foods may produce a mild dermatitis and dust allergies. Also, if mites are taken internally by eating infested food, they may cause stomach disorders.

Tyrophagus



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