

Are You Allergic to Your Dog?

Contributed by Bianca Dog
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When you take the step of bringing a new brand new puppy into the home, you are bringing with it love, excitement, and a learning experience, but what happens when you bring out the allergies of one of the family members that you didn't know existed? Now you are faced with a horrible decision, do you take the puppy back rendering everyone heartbroken and upset with you, or do you keep the pet and try no to let the allergy sufferer be completely miserable. There are things that you can do so that no one in the family has to give up the puppy or their comfort.

Two main causes of dog allergies, are pet dander, and bacteria that is contained inside of the dog's mouth and released when he or she licks their fur. The most important thing that you can do for the allergy sufferer and the puppy is to make sure the puppy is in perfect health, if you puppy is nervous, unhappy, or not getting the nutrients that they need, the first thing that happens is they begin to shed. The more that the puppy sheds the more your family members allergies are going to flare up because of all the dog hair in the air.

If your vet tells you that your puppy is completely happy and healthy, now it is time to take steps forward to combat the allergies. It is important to bathe your puppy regularly, once a week will do because you do not want to dry their skin out, this will just cause more dander. Take the time to groom your dog every other day, if you keep the hair brushed out and clean than it will be easier to control allergy symptoms.

Once you have taken care of the puppies hygienic needs it is time to educate the family member that has the problem, teach them what the limits are for the contact between themselves and the puppy. It is ok for them to love and play with the puppy, just teach them to wash their hands after they are done. Make sure that it is never their responsibility to feed the puppy, handling the puppy's dish will make them miserable.

It is going to take a little extra work to make sure that your allergy ridden family member does not suffer constantly. Just remember that every extra step that you have to take to make the living arrangement work that it is worth it, there is nothing more rewarding than the bond that is formed with a family pet. Just taking the time and putting a little bit of extra effort in raising and caring for your pet will make the world of difference in your family environment.

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