

Editorial

## Revised nomenclature for veterinary allergy

Dear Sir,

In the special issue of *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology* devoted to publication of the work of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) Task Force on Canine Atopic Dermatitis (Olivry et al., 2001), under the heading “Lexicon”, specific recommendations were made regarding the most appropriate terminology that should be applied to allergy and allergic diseases.

Since that publication, a revised terminology has been proposed by the Nomenclature Review Committee of the World Allergy Organisation for use in allergic diseases of man (Johannson et al., 2004). A successor to the ACVD Task Force, now entitled The International Task Force on Canine Atopic Dermatitis has continued to meet and address various issues relating to the subject. At their last meeting, they considered whether changes might be indicated for the veterinary field as a result of the recommendations pertaining to allergy of

Term	Previous definition	New definition
Hypersensitivity	An exaggerated, often deleterious response of the immune system to an antigen	Objectively reproducible clinical signs initiated by exposure to a defined stimulus at a dose tolerated by normal dogs
Allergy (allergic hypersensitivity)	A disease state characterized by hypersensitivity responses to allergens and oftentimes mediated by IgE reagenic antibodies	A hypersensitivity reaction initiated by a specific immunologic response to an allergen and mediated either by antibodies or cells
Non-allergic hypersensitivity		A hypersensitivity reaction initiated by non-immunologic mechanisms
IgE-mediated allergy		A reaction involving IgE responses to allergens resulting in clinical signs
Lymphocyte-mediated allergy		A reaction involving allergen-specific lymphocytes resulting in clinical signs
Canine atopic dermatitis	A genetically predisposed inflammatory and pruritic allergic skin disease with characteristic clinical features. It is associated most commonly with IgE antibodies to environmental allergens	A genetically predisposed inflammatory and pruritic allergic skin disease with characteristic clinical features associated with IgE antibodies most commonly directed against environmental allergens
Canine atopic-like dermatitis		An inflammatory and pruritic skin disease with clinical features identical to those seen in canine atopic dermatitis in which an IgE response to environmental or other allergens cannot be documented

man. The recommendations for change, which are agreed without dissent, are listed below.

It was decided that the remaining definitions should remain as originally proposed.

For and on behalf of the International Task Force on Atopic Dermatitis whose members are:

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## References

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- Olivry, T., DeBoer, D.J., Griffin, C.E., Halliwell, R.E.W., Hill, P.B., Hillier, A., Marsella, R., Sousa, C., 2001. The ACVD Task force on canine atopic dermatitis: forewords and lexicon. *Vet. Immunol. Immunopathol.* 81, 143–146.

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