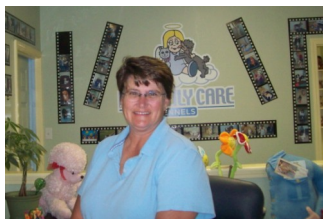




# Heavenly Care Kennels

## Meet Dayna



Dayna is our newest staff member at Heavenly Care Kennels. She takes care of the beautification of the kennel and grounds as well as helping customers and spending quality time with our guests. She's married with two children and three dogs. She graduated from Westfield High School and has a degree in recreation management from Huntington University.

## Pet Allergies

Allergies is something we typically associate with people. However, allergies also affect animals as well with the same intensity as humans. Pet allergies are hereditary and is essentially a skin disease. Some common pet allergens include pollens, mold spores, dust, animal dander, feathers, wool, etc. Allergies, even in pets, are typically seasonal. Some early indications and warning signs that your pet may have allergies include over-all itchy skin or scratching, chewing, rubbing, and/or licking of the face, fore legs, feet, ears, and other areas. If the condition is not properly treated, these warning signs could lead to reddened skin and hair loss. Chronic untreated allergies could produce a thickening of the skin, ear



infections, bacterial skin diseases, conjunctivitis, irregular heat cycles, asthma, irritability, diarrhea, and much more. (Rees, 2008, October 1) Allergies are caused by an overreaction of your pet's immune system; it does not mean that he/she has a weak immune system. The symptoms of allergies is your pet's body's way of trying to eliminate the allergen from his/her system. Treatment includes desensitization to what your pet is specifically allergic to which is an allergen specific immunotherapy. This helps retrain your pet's immune system, but it will most likely be a lifelong treatment. (Ghubash, 2011, May 1)

Antihistamines is the more common term for the medication used to treat allergies, even in pets.

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## Heavenly Care Kennels on the Web

Heavenly Care Kennels is now on Facebook! We log on frequently to interact with our customers, share news and recent events, and upload pictures of our guests. If you are a current customer, we also share photos of your pets while in our care and we can link them to your wall so all of your friends can see the cute things your 'babies' do.

Heavenly Care Kennels has also recently renovated our website: [www.heavenlycarekennels.com](http://www.heavenlycarekennels.com). You will find hundreds of pictures, information about our services, customer comments, a virtual tour, our contact information, a chance to learn about our staff, and a guestbook for you to leave your own comments about us or request information.

## Pet Allergies Continued

The technical term for allergies in pets is “allergic inhalant dermatitis” or “atopic dermatitis.” According to Paul Bloom, DVM, DACVD, DABVP with the Allergy, Skin, and Ear Clinic for Pets in Livonia, MI, antihistamines should be used every-day as a preventative and not just when symptoms appear. No one antihistamine is better than another. You should always consult your veterinarian concerning your pet’s allergies, but you should choose one based on how easy it is for you to administer to your pet such as medication form and frequency of dose. If, after fourteen days, your pet’s allergies do not seem better, you

should choose a different antihistamine. The most common antihistamines for pets include diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine, chlorpheniramine, and cetirizine. (Bloom, 2010, October 1)

### References

Bloom, Paul, DVM, DACVD, DABVP. (2010, October 1). “Just ask the expert: are antihistamines effective in canine atopy?” DVM360.com. Retrieved September 26, 2011 from <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/vetmed/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=690081>

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Rees, Christine, DVM, DACVD. (2008, October 1). “Canine atopic dermatitis: a review and update.” DVM360.com. Retrieved September 26, 2011 from <http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/avhc/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=587170>

## Heartworm

Heartworm is a condition prevalent in dogs and even cats and is caused by mosquitoes. The risks for heartworm and other parasites are decreased in colder months, but it’s important to give your loved ones parasite preventatives all year long. Your

pets should also be tested for heartworm by your veterinarian on a routine basis even if you do give them preventative medication. Doses can be missed, improperly administered, or the animal may not actually have swallowed the dose. Heartworm is a

very serious disease that affects the heart and lungs and can eventually lead to death. Proper preventative care makes the chances of heartworm infestations slim to none and early intervention after infestation will help save your pet’s life.



*Allergies and Heartworm are common concepts for dogs and cats that many pet owners don't understand or acknowledge.*

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