



immunotherapy drops for allergy control for your pet.

and your veterinarian have elected to identify the cause of your pet's allergy through testing and to treat with immunotherapy drops. Allergies can be a frustrating and long-term problem for you and your pet. Be assured that with immunotherapy drops, your veterinarian is recommending a long-term, medically appropriate treatment for this important member of your family.

Immunotherapy is one of the safest, most effective long-term treatments for allergy. It is the only therapy that targets the root cause of allergic reactions, rather than other treatments that just mask signs. For the best chance of success with immunotherapy drops to have the greatest chance of success, it is important that you understand what the process involves and what your role is in helping to manage your pet's allergic disease.

### What are Heska Immunotherapy Drops?

Immunotherapy drops are a medical treatment where allergens (e.g., pollen, dander, molds, mites) to which your pet is allergic are administered, under the tongue (orally). Using the specific results of the allergy testing and detailed history, immunotherapy treatment is customized to contain the specific allergens identified as causing allergic problems in your pet. Successful use of immunotherapy drops changes the immune system to become tolerant of those allergens. The goal of immunotherapy with immunotherapy drops is to minimize the severity of clinical signs to keep your pet comfortable, as well as to reduce reliance on immunosuppressive drugs.

### How are the immunotherapy drops administered?

Immunotherapy drops contain precise quantities of allergens that are placed inside your pet's mouth, directly beneath the tongue. Highly specialized cells

located in this area are responsible for "re-training" the immune system's response to allergens, eventually resulting in tolerance and thus a reduction of allergic signs. A small volume is administered from a specially designed pump that makes it easy to place the drops under the tongue. The drops are given twice per day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Most pets find the taste to be very palatable, but it is important that the drops be given WITHOUT food or water. No food, treats or water should be given for 10 minutes following administration.

### Are immunotherapy drops safe?

Reactions are very rare with immunotherapy drops. If any reaction is observed, it is generally some mild oral itching or irritation, which usually subsides within 5–10 minutes. (For pets that couldn't tolerate immunotherapy when given as an injection, immunotherapy drops provide a very safe alternative.) For pets that did not have any significant improvement in their allergic signs with immunotherapy injections, immunotherapy drops may provide beneficial effects due to the different way they are administered.

### How soon can I expect to see some improvement in my pet from immunotherapy drops?

Many patients will start to experience a reduction in their signs in the first 1–3 months of therapy. It is recommended that immunotherapy drops be continued for at least 10 months before deciding whether or not it is the best way to manage your pet's allergies. Every pet's allergy condition is unique. Therefore, regular re-evaluations or "re-checks" by your pet's veterinarian (especially during the first year) are essential for achieving the best results.

### Can my pet receive other medications while on immunotherapy drops?

Regular skin and coat care, particularly bathing, is an important part of managing your pet's allergy. Your veterinarian may also prescribe other treatments such as antihistamines, fatty acids, medicated shampoos, rinses or sprays to help keep your pet

comfortable during the early stages of immunotherapy or during allergy season. Additionally, anti-inflammatory medications can also be used without interfering with immunotherapy drops.

### How often will my pet require immunotherapy drops?

For maximum benefit, drops should be given twice daily, generally once in the morning and once in the evening, although it is not imperative that they be given at the same time every day. Because immunotherapy drops work differently than immunotherapy injections, it is possible that some patients may be able to eventually stop receiving the drops and still maintain good control over their allergic signs. This decision needs to be made with your veterinarian and would only be suggested after your pet has achieved full resolution of his/her signs for an extended period of time.

### What if my dog or cat is not doing well on immunotherapy?

Some pets may not improve following treatment with immunotherapy drops. It is critical that you work closely with your veterinarian. Poor response may be due to secondary, often treatable, skin diseases such as yeast or bacterial infections, as well as flea infestations. In other cases, it may be necessary to change the contents or concentration of the drops. In selected cases, it may be beneficial to re-test your pet if it is suspected he/she has developed additional hypersensitivities.

### Are there any other measures I can take to help my allergic pet?

The table on the back of this brochure outlines environmental control measures to help minimize your pet's exposure to certain allergens. Remember that many allergens are airborne, and you may be able to help your allergic pet by making some simple at home changes.