

Abstract

Effect of a Quaternium Salts Solution on the level of Fel d1 on fur, in the air & in settled dust

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Many cat allergics persist in keeping cats. Attempts to reduce the cat allergen, Fel d1 exposure in dwellings include the use of air cleaners, vacuum cleaners and frequent washings. None of these methods are completely effective and practical for everyday use.

In this study, the effect of weekly cleaning of cat fur with a Quaternium salts based solution was tested in a furnished laboratory room. Fel d1 content was measured on the cats' fur, in the air and in settled dust. Fel d1 assessments by monoclonal ELISA and RAST were influenced by the presence of the solution. Polyclonal RIA's appeared reliable.

Extractable Fel d1 from the cats' fur after two treatments decreased significantly in all cases. The Fel d1 content of dust from carpeting on which treated cats had lived for 2 weeks was compared to carpet dust where the same cats lived prior to treatment. Each of two series of tests showed a reduction in Fel d1 of approximately 50% as compared to the untreated versions. The Fel d1 content of air samplings were reduced by a similar level.

The results suggest that the use of a Quaternium salts solution on cats decreases the load of Fel d1 in fur and settled dust and also reduces the contamination in the airborne load. Whether the decrease in allergen is sufficient to reduce symptoms in a specific cat allergic person will depend on the dwelling characteristics and upon the allergic person's sensitivity.