

Rush Therapy

Rush immunotherapy is a technique that is commonly used for people receiving allergy injections and has now been shown to be safe and effective for use in dogs and cats. The idea of rush therapy is to accelerate the process of starting the allergy injections. Normally when starting allergy injections, one injection is given every 2-4 days, beginning with very minute amounts of the substances the patient is allergic to. The amount of the allergens is slowly increased with each injection over the next 2 months before reaching a maintenance dosage which is then given every 7-30 days. In contrast, **rush therapy compresses the start-up sequence into one day**. After the first day, the patient immediately starts the maintenance therapy injections every 7-21 days.

How rush therapy works:

1. Patients are hospitalized and our staff gives the injections every 30 minutes throughout the day. The patients need to stay for a minimum of 4.5 hours to complete the startup sequence. Patients are carefully monitored for any side effects of the therapy.
2. An intravenous catheter is placed in all patients receiving rush therapy as a precaution. This is to be used in the unlikely event of a serious reaction to the injections. The catheter will be removed prior to your pet going home.
3. We offer rush therapy days at least once monthly. Drop off and pick up times are flexible, but the patients need to be in the hospital from at least **11:30 am to between 5:00-7:00 pm**.

Benefits of rush therapy:

1. **The beneficial effects of allergy injections will occur sooner with rush therapy.** By compressing the start up time, patients begin to feel more comfortable sooner, often after only a few weeks. Traditional therapy can take up to 12 months before reaching the maximum effect.
2. You end up giving your pet fewer injections. This may keep your relationship with your pet intact as you will only give the injections every 7-21 days.
3. **When rush therapy is used allergy injections simply work better** to control the signs and symptoms of allergic disease (by about 10%).

Important facts about rush therapy:

1. **The incidence of side effects is the same as with traditional start up sequences.**
2. Should side effects occur, they can be better managed because your pet is in the hospital.