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5Strands® Affordable Pet Testing Case Study Outline

We appreciate your feedback regarding your experience with 5Strands® Affordable Pet Testing! Please also provide a before and after photo of your pet! We understand that by providing this information you are granting permission for us to share your story on 5Strands® Affordable Testing's websites, social media and in marketing materials.

Pet's Name: **Bumble**

Pet's Breed & Sex: **Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Male**

Describe condition of pet and/or symptoms before using *Affordable Testing*.

Prior to testing, Bumble would have extreme episodes of reverse sneezing many times a day. My heart would break it was so stressful on him as well as me. He also bit his paws almost non-stop and was not a very good eater often looking at the food sadly and then me sadly.

What type of food was your pet eating prior to testing (i.e. kibble, raw, frozen, freeze dried, etc.)?

He was getting Natures Balance Chicken or Beef kibble with some Castor&Pollux Organix wet food or a scoop of pumpkin or peanut butter to hide the ¼ pill crushed of Glucosamine Hydrochloride (Cosequin DS).

Describe the results of *Affordable Testing* (i.e. number and/or examples of items reported as intolerances, insight gained, etc.).H

OMGGGOSH...massive game changer! SO much great data that helped me understand what was going on with him. The details in the results were extremely easy to understand and cross reference with things in our environment as well as components in his food and diet.

Very disappointed with my Vet. When I inquired about allergy testing she quickly dismissed the idea saying that we could do environmental tests (for \$700) but no food allergy testing existed. Instead she proposed a very expensive and invasive surgical procedure to check his nasal passage for growths or an elongated soft palate (\$2500). Seriously???

What elimination plan did you implement (i.e. foods eliminated and/or changes in environment, timeframe, etc.)?

The Cosequin DS, pumpkin and peanut butter were all level 3 so we stopped them right away. For the other food allergies my goal was to eliminate level 3 ingredients (challenging as this dog is allergic to life! Oiyyy!) and make sure level 2's were far down on the ingredient list. I ignored level 1 to save my sanity.

Zero'd in on the limited ingredient diets and have him on 4 specific Merrick LID products (2 wet choices and 2 kibble choices).

On the environmental side~ He is level 3 allergic to horses (lovely~ we live on a horse farm!) and also white vinegar which we used to de-odorize. Funny enough he stopped coming to the barn with me recently...I think he associated it with the RS episodes. So I no longer make him come to the barn with me unless he "asks". His other level 3's are manageable and hopefully easy for us to manage with Benedryl seasonally.

Describe condition of pet and/or symptoms after the elimination plan.

It took less than a week of elimination (both from the barn as well as on the new food) for us to see a dramatic improvement. The RS episodes are virtually gone, he no longer eats his feet and is excited for meals gobbling them up happily.

What is your impression of the *Affordable Testing* process and results of the elimination plan (i.e. length of time to receive results, quality of customer service, value of information gained, etc.)?

Top notch for everything! So glad that I invested in 5Strands! I am experiencing allergy symptoms, just purchased the human version and can't wait to get my results back!!

Thank you~ thank you~ thank you 5Strands!!!!

Late addendum: I brought Bumble to the Vet for a "pedicure" recently. They asked me if I had decided to move forward with the surgery. I told them I had allergy testing done, had made some changes and that the reverse sneezing episodes had disappeared. My vet looked at me, said "Hum" ...and moved beyond it without another word....interesting....