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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: Frostie**

**Pet's Breed & Sex: Welsh Corgi, Female**

**Describe condition of pet and/or symptoms before using *Affordable Testing*.** Around the beginning of March, Frostie began scratching & "flea biting" herself a LOT. It got so bad that it seemed like it was non-stop all the time & she would wake me up at night too. One evening, I found what I thought was a bite wound. Took her to the vet to have it looked at. It was a hot spot that had blistered up & they found 2 spots on her. She was given an antibiotic in case it was a yeast infection. Told the vet that I had switched her to a new food in February & wondered if it was the new food causing the problem, which he disagreed with & felt it was outdoor pollens. Started giving her Benadryl 2x a day because the vet said he's seeing a lot of cases of allergies already. Benadryl did nothing for her. Then the vet gave her a prescription (pill form) to help with her itching. It too did NOTHING for her & the Dr was suggesting either a steroid or cytopoint shot for her. Meanwhile I had submitted her hair for the Affordable Pet Test to be done & was waiting for the results before making my next move.

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

Raw Dehydrated, Grain Free Duck formula from Spot Farm.

**Describe the results of *Affordable Testing* (i.e. number and/or examples of items reported as intolerances, insight gained, etc.).** Once I got her results, I was shocked! I started to cry because Tumeric was listed as a high intolerance & I had given her Curcumin the weekend before that has tumeric in it to try & help her & it only made her lethargic. Egg yolk was listed twice (in level 3 & 2). Her new food contains dehydrated eggs. Other food items she's intolerant to is cranberries & phosphate. All of which is in her new food. Raspberries were indicated in level 2, which is something I would give her as a treat. Environmental results showed high intolerance to Bermuda grass (that's in areas of our back yard). As well as house dust. Other items listed that she doesn't get were nice to know so I can stay clear of them.

**What elimination plan did you implement (i.e. foods eliminated and/or changes in environment, timeframe, etc.)?** With test results in hand, I made another vet appointment for her to go over the findings & get his suggestions. In short, he told me “I don’t put a lot of faith in these types of testing because even with a blood test...there just isn’t any fool proof testing available to pinpoint the exact problem” and kept insisting that her problem was being caused by outdoor pollen & he told me he didn’t want me to change her food. I allowed her to get the cytopoint shot & see what happened. Her scratching slowed down somewhat after 2 days, but she was still “flea biting” herself quite a bit & scratching. After 1 week, I took it upon myself to start changing her food over to a limited ingredient canned food of turkey & potatoes, despite what the vet told me. Her new food does not have any of the ingredients listed on her results sheet.

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

Frostie just got fully transitioned over to her new food & she has COMPLETELY STOPPED biting herself & scratching altogether. She’s acting like her old self again & is sleeping SO much better because she’s not waking up every 10-15 minutes biting at herself. She might scratch once in a while, like any dog will do, but it’s nothing like before....even after she had gotten the shot from the vet. She’s much happier & it shows!

**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.)?**

I found this test to be very informative. Results came within 1 week. The customer service was helpful in explaining things I may have been confused about. I wish my vet could have been a little more open minded when I shared this with him. Frostie is a special needs dog & is sensitive to a lot of things. I personally feel that her main problem source was with her food ingredients. This test was totally worth it to me