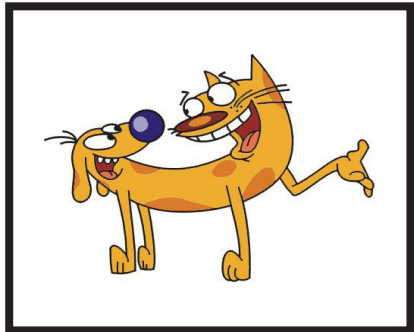


The Pollen

Issue N°11 - Animal Extracts



Have you ever wondered where the extracts that we test and treat for come from? No, it's not FedEx or UPS. Let's look at one of the methods that manufacturers make their animal extracts. Most of the manufacturing processes are proprietary and are not available to the public however, below describes the general process for making Acetone Precipitated (AP) extracts. Please note that all allergen manufacturing, regardless of the method are governed by the FDA.

The first step of the process is the collection of material. Hair and dander are collected from animals in good health and from certified groomers or veterinarians. The hair is then soaked in a chemical solution for 3 to 5 day to denature and allow for separation of the hair and dander proteins.

Next, the chemical solution is separated from the hair and dander by using a large industrial centrifuge. The hair and dander is then discarded, and the remaining solution is filtered again to increase the clarity of the solution.

The solution is allowed to rest for 3-5 days to further separate the protein(s) and allow the undesired liquids in the mixture to evaporate and the rest remain. After this step the total volume of the extract is reduced to 90% of its starting volume.

In order to precipitate the desired allergen from the remaining solution, the pH is dropped with the addition of more chemicals and acetone is added. After 24 hours the acetone is poured off the top and the remaining precipitant is processed via another method that varies depending upon the extract. After this is repeated a couple of times, the resulting product becomes a solid form of the extract. The extract is then vacuum dried and stored.



Dried extracts waiting to be turned into liquid extracts.

This dried extract can be dissolved with a solvent to make an extract solution at the desired weight to volume. The manufacturing process, from raw material to pure extract, takes approximately 2-3 weeks.