

have been shown to reduce skin inflammation and even a little bit of the itch. Again, this approach can maximize the benefit of our anti-itch medications.

What do we do when our allergic dogs flare? It is very important to come back to basics before we worry about a medication failure. Are we giving our flea control correctly? Could our dog have become infested with the scabies mite? Coyotes, red fox, and raccoons can carry this mite into our backyards even in cities, and we don't always find these mites on skin scraping. Has our dog developed an infection with staphylococcal bacteria or yeast? Our new targeted allergy medications were never

meant to control the itch of these infestations and infections. It is true, though, that some dogs are so allergic that they can break through what we are doing and need some extra help during bad pollen seasons, even if they don't have fleas or infections. We can give Cytopoint® with Apoquel® or Atopica® or even steroids if needed. We do not like to mix steroids with Apoquel® or Apoquel® with Atopica® for longer than 3 or 4 weeks, but Cytopoint can be administered with any of these medications.

Living with an allergic dog can be hard, but we now have many good choices to treat their disease. Work with your veterinarian to find the way for your dog.

New Laboratory For CMO Testing

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS

Most Westie owners have been submitting the genetic test swab for Craniomandibular Osteopathy (CMO) to Optigen. Optigen has been sold to the Mars Company which supplies the Wisdom Genetic and Health Panel. The Wisdom S is a genetic profile that will test for all known Genetic mutations, even those which do not affect our breed. The average cost of this profile is \$150 with an approximate two week turnaround time.

Vetgen Laboratories will now process the CMO test for \$55/sample. Go to Vetgen.com for information. The test is prepaid online or by telephone, **(800) 483-8436 (US & Canada)**. If you have multiple samples and call Vetegen's number between 9 AM-4 PM EST, they will provide a small discount. They will supply the test kit and return mailer.