

TABLE 7**Acute Flare and Long-term Management Therapies in Cats**

Drug Name	Acute Flare	Long-term Management	Advantage/Disadvantage
Corticosteroids	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid onset of action • Side effects common
Cyclosporine	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not interfere with intradermal allergy testing • Slow onset of action (weeks) • Side effects common (gastrointestinal, hypersalivation, lethargy, gingival hyperplasia) • Requires periodic monitoring of hepatic enzymes and blood cell counts
Allergen-specific immunotherapy	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe to use in combination with other medications • Only management strategy that induces change in the immune response • Biologic compound • Slow onset of action (months to 1 yr) • Requires intradermal or serum allergy testing
EFA s	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have steroid-sparing benefits • Slow onset of action (weeks to months)
Antihistamines	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side effects uncommon • Questionable efficacy—may only be effective in mildly pruritic animals

EFA, essential fatty acids.

Note: Oclacitinib is not labeled for use in cats. Lokivetmab is contraindicated in cats.

The 2023 AAHA Management of Allergic Skin Diseases Guidelines are available at aaha.org/allergic-diseases.

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