

Position Statement on “Hypoallergenic” Siberian Cats – Revised March 2009

INDOOR Biotechnologies has received several enquiries concerning cat allergen (Fel d 1) levels in Siberian cats and other cat breeds over the past 10 years. In September 2000, a cat lover sent the company four samples from different cat breeds to be tested for Fel d 1 through our INDOOR Allergen Analysis Service. These were hair samples collected by the client and the results were posted on various web-sites at the time, as indicated below:

["Recent News - Results for testing of Fel d1 in fur samples"](#)

These tests were performed in Dec 1999, by an independent lab in Virginia Indoor Biotechnologies, 1216 Harris St, Charlottesville, VA 22903. The results are as follows:

Sample #	Breed	Fel d 1 (µg/g)
1	male, neutered, mixed breed	62,813
2	male, neutered, Siberian	2001
3	female, Abyssinian, neutered)	385
4	female, neutered, Siberian)	206

INDOOR Biotechnologies comments:

First, the Fel d 1 results are in micrograms per gram sample (µg/g, not mg/g, as posted on various websites). The results have been interpreted to indicate that the Siberian and Abyssinian cats have considerably less allergen than mixed breed house cats, and that females have less Fel d 1 than males.

This web posting created lots of interest, though INDOOR Biotechnologies did not carry out research on the samples, was not responsible for collecting the samples, or for validating the results. The company would not provide recommendations on pet ownership based on the results provided under these circumstances. The results do not provide convincing scientific data that Siberian cats are "hypoallergenic" and it is unfortunate that they have been widely disseminated on the web and used by breeders of Siberian cats to promote the breed.

The levels of allergen found in the Siberian samples (200 - 2000µg/g) are very high and indicate that these cats produce significant amounts of allergen. Part of the confusion is created by the fact that the results of the mixed breed cat are exceptionally high, for reasons that are unclear and were not investigated at the time. The samples used for analysis in 2000 were disposed of and cannot be re-tested. We do know from previous published studies that Fel d 1 is produced by big cat species (lions, tigers, leopards etc) and it is unlikely that the gene is lacking in strains of domestic cats, including Siberian cats.