

I have two Frenchies that are brother and sister. I have had Joey (my boy) since birth and got Kate (my girl) about a year ago (March 2006) from the breeder; Linda Ashford.



At that time I was told that she was merely underweight, and was allergic to dog food. The dog was to be bred. Kate was fine until there was a parvo scare in the neighborhood and she was taken to the vet who didn't have only the Parvo vaccine, but gave her one with everything in it; like Parvo, Lepdo, etc. She was 6 months old then.
Nov 18, 2003 – Distemper, Parainfluenza, Parvo, Coronavirus
July 8th, 2004 - Distemper, Parainfluenza, Parvo, Coronavirus, Lepto, Rabies

Apparently, the day after she started to show sign of problems. She instantly became itchy, and would scratch herself to the point of losing hair and bleeding. She was returned to the breeder twice. At the home of the previous owner she was kibble fed. They also had three kids who fed her stuff like licorice. Once returning to the breeder, she would be fed a cooked stew, along with some veggies. She was given zinc and selenium, from the little that I know, and I was told cleared right up. As soon as she went back to the family, she broke out again. So on the second time being returned, the dog was suffering so bad, they were going to put her down. The breeder then cleared her up with the same protocol within a week. She was very thin and had lost a lot of hair. She knew I had her brother and was looking for a 2nd Frenchie, so she gave her to me.

Upon arriving she fit right in. She was very friendly, sweet and enjoyed being held. She seemed very submissive. Although when I introduced Joey to her at the breeders house, she was super aggressive and a definite Alpha dog.



We immediately switched to raw. At that point I used ground beef, or chicken, along with some canned jack mackerel and made a veggie pulp out of stuff like Kale, Dandelion, pumpkin, yams, carrots, beans, parsley, garlic, etc. I can't quite remember, but we were using

tap water, salmon oil, and The Missing Link.

When I got her, she had her last heat about a month prior. (I think end of April) I then had her spayed in Milton, a month after that. Surgery went well, but she started to itch, shortly after arriving at my house. The vet also said I should give her Advantage; of which I did and she almost died. She had such a horrible reaction; super red, hot, and beyond itchy. It was so awful.



I then went through the process of changing the diet, in adding less veggies. Nothing really seemed to make a difference. We then went to see **Dr. Paul McCutcheon** at the East York Animal Clinic here in Toronto (think it was in June of 2006). They say they are a Holistic Vet. They began with Auricular testing which Kate had 2 electrode laying on her (non-intrusive). The doctor then passed several proteins and foods in front of her and based on Kate's electric response she determined that her issues lay with her spleen, kidneys, lymph nodes and her skin. It was really something to see. It's like a homeopathic allergy test of sorts. We then began with about 4 different blends of homeopathic herbs (a blend) about 4 times a day for 6 months or soulmus sorbos, ribes, kaliphos, rescue skin. They explained to me that we had to start with the source of the problem and get Kate rights from the damage her vaccinations did to her. On top of the herbs she was only getting an Omega 3 (biotone) and a probiotic. And a digestive enzyme called Digest Aid.

She seemed to be doing well for a while on just the chicken that I was feeding. I



would get chicken necks and grind them, with a few greens. We then kinda hit a plateau, and she started to itch once again. We had switched to spring water and no more chemicals in the house.

Her episodes were getting so bad, that she was now wearing a t-shirt. I felt East York just didn't know what to do, so they

recommended steroids. (pred's 2mg) for when things got really bad. Because I didn't know any better, I gave them to her. I would only do half a pill for maybe one, maybe two days, until it cleared up. It appeared to work (this is when I didn't know how harmful steroids were). We were going along this way for the summer.



She then got into a whole bag of chocolate chip cookies, I think in August of 2006. She became violently ill; vomiting and severe diarrhea. I rushed her over to East York and then immediately X-rayed her, did blood work, put her on Vitamins, and gave her antibiotics. \$700 later! I took her home that night at 7pm, and she was fine after that. I then decided that I was going to try to get her off steroids, as I began to learn their harm.

We then decided to branch out in her proteins; keeping things as naturally raised as possible, no beef though. She was eating Ostrich, Elk, Goat, Rabbit, Pork, Venison, Green Tripe, Mackerel, Sardines, etc. At this point we were pretty much veggie free. I was giving her Artic Vigor and Earth Origins, along with an Udo's probiotic. She became super itchy, scratching her underarms, her chest, and pulling herself along the carpet to the point where a secondary infection started on her inner thighs. She now had to wear a t-shirt all the time (Octoberish). I would bathe her twice a week in Calendula Shampoo. That's when I believe, the yeast started. Her skin became smelly, and some blackish skin appeared on her skin under her arms. East York, found some yeast on her skin, I think in July. She would nibble on her paws as well. She would sometimes scratch so hard it would bleed. I would use calendula cream and Polysporin on those spots. These are a list of the supplements that I have tried;



- Extra Virgin Coconut Oil
- L-Glutamine
- Vit B Complex
- Grape Seed Extract
- Grapefruit Seed Extract
- Three Types of fish oil
- A non dairy human grade probiotic
- A soil based probiotic (without FOS)
- Colostrum
- Ester C
- Zinc

- Selenium
- Colloidal Silver
- Rescue Remedy
- Stinging Nettle
- Quercetin
- Kelp
- Alfalfa
- Dandelion Root
- Milk Thistle
- Australian Bach Flower Essences – Immune Booster



That's when I went to see Cynthia Harcourt. These are the remedies I bought; She was in a crisis, when I first called Cynthia so before even seeing her she suggested I use for every other day for two weeks was;
rumex crispus - did
rhus tox - did

Within those two weeks I was told to do a dose of the following on Sundays
dulcamara – did

After my initial consultation, she began with

Pulsatilla 200ch – did (two doses – of which she had a horrible reaction)

We then tried;
sulfur - did
hepar sulf calc - did
thuya - did
arsenicum album - did
alumina - did not
bryonia - did not
mercurius sol - did
graphites - did
aconitum napellus - did not
chamomilla vulgaris - did not
spongia tosta - did not
belladonna - did not
petroleum - did not
silicea - did not try



We also tried Unda numbers for drainage. I basically felt we were getting no where, and Kate was going through hell.

After stopping (early January) I began her on just Vit B Complex, Vit C (all yeast and wheat free). I was also told to give her grapefruit seed extract to get rid of the yeast. Initially I bought the wrong stuff and gave her grape seed extract. For two weeks she was like a different dog. The rash on her inner thigh disappeared, and she was great!!! After two weeks, we started to go downhill again. I then started giving her some grapefruit seed extract (diluted) along with CS, to try to kill of the yeast. So we made it out of that crisis. After that, I started her on L-glutamine, A soil based probiotic, and colostrum. So far so good until about a week ago she contracted Kennel Cough or a cold of some sort. Her immune system is the pits.



As for her attitude, she's always been the alpha of the bunch, but extremely close to me. Her and her brother are on leashes in the front of my house. Whenever someone walks by, it's a MAJOR barking session. Her brother has now started copying her. God help up if a dog walks by. The hair on her back stands straight up, and she goes mad. The same exists, for when we are walking on a leash. It's so embarrassing. She wants to lunge at the dog. Anytime, I try to let her try to meet a dog on leash, she had gone to "nip" them. Would she actually bite? I'm not sure. Recently, I have tried to let her

off leash with other Frenchies, and she is just fine with them. Perhaps it's a breed thing?

I would describe Kate as a "real dog" of sorts. She goes berserk, when she sees a squirrel and tried to climb the tree. She is very independent, and can chomp down big hunks of raw meaty bones no problem. She's very agile with her front paws, as far as helping her eat. Unlike her brother, she doesn't always need attention, and is quite fine all on her own. Recently though, about two months ago, she has changed. She now likes to cuddle, and seems like she has opened up to "trusting" me. She is way less independent now. She used to sleep on top of the covers, and now likes to sleep under them and cuddles. As for the itching, it was never really bad at night. She was always able to sleep through the night.

Upon waking, first thing, she would rise and itch. Her itchiness is definitely worse in the morning.

Overall, her mood is great. In my house, she is super friendly, and submissive and sweet to guests. She is happy, and playful. Over time she has become even more playful, more vocal with her brother, and even instigating play.

Also, since going off steroids, when she would have an “episode” she would develop 1-3 hard bumps on her body. There’s no specific spot. Each episode seems to bring a new itchy area. Usually it’s under her arms and thighs (where she can reach), but the last episode it was around her face, ears, and neck. Anyhow, once or twice the bumps actually made it to the surface of her skin and burst – they were like pimples. The smell that came out of them was horribly foul. As of late (last three months), the bumps have remained just under the skin, and haven’t burst. But if you scratch them, you smell that awful smell. They seem to appear where she is itchiest the most. She has also gotten them around her mouth (bottom part – chin) and around her eye, right of the edge of the lid. Once she starts to get better, they go away.



Last January, I also woke up one morning to find that Kate could not walk. I waited outside of the vet. They took x-rays, and gave her acupuncture. I was told she has a hemivertebrae in her L-1 vertebrae. It’s in the shape of a wedge, and disk degenerative disease. I was sent home as she could put a small amount of weight on her foot after the acupuncture. They gave me arnica and L-carnitine. After speaking with several people, I was scared and called the vet and requested a scrip for prednisone. If I didn’t get the pressure off her spine right away it could rupture. So I gave her a dose about 10mg the first day, 5 mg the next, and then 2mg, and 2mg. After about a week – she was perfect. The vet gave me some really strong pain meds and told me that she could very well, go

into incredible pain, and I was to rush her to hospital – so be prepared for the worse.

After this I began to work with Magda – a homeopath – spring 2007 who also had no luck and gave up on us. She tried Belladonna, Merc Sol, Sulphur, Psorium, lycopodium.....a bunch more; I could look it up if you need me to.

One of the first things she did do, was have me test Kate's thyroid – which I did, and that's when I changed vets. It was high and she's been on meds ever since. All the vets are doing at this point is wanting me to go to a dermatologist or steroids.

Through working with Magda, we went through a variety of symptoms coming up, depending on which remedy it was – there were times when Kate was suffering. I have all those e-mails at work.

It still came in the form of itchiness. Hives/Pustules would erupt causing her great itchiness. She would scoot, and pull herself along the floor to scratch. She would sometimes scratch so hard, it would break the skin, and bleed. Sometimes the pustules would come to a head, sometimes not. Sometimes they would smell, sometimes not.



I then tried liquid zeolite – to rid her body of heavy metals. This triggered her gunky ear (left) of which she has never had before. It's not too bad but still present. And she still chews her feet. I will send you some pictures of how she was when I first got her and now, also pics of when she was really bad. I should also tell you there was 3 in the litter – naturally delivered. Apparently there is another female, who had to leave the city as she would just “pass out” due to the pollution.

Timeline

Winter/Spring 2006 – Drove 4 hours to pick her up.
First Vet Visit, and she was brought in because I had thought she got into Joey food – Solid Gold at the time. I have her vet files and can see it was the same type of problems as now – pustules around eye, severely itchy, bad around bum, under arms, inner thighs, chewing paws. Traumatic Dermatitis. Skin Smear was negative.

Update February 2009.

I have now moved to Nova Scotia and Kate seems to be doing better, being out of the city. She has been able to not have to wear her t-shirt all the time. I truly believe it has been a result of fewer toxins in the air. Currently I feed her raw – beef, chicken, lamb, deer, tripe, some fish, and pork. I give her Artic Vigor every few days (seal oil), as well as Earth Origins (only every few days. I also give her a garlic tablet every few days, organic goats yogurt every few days, and l-glutamine.

I came across Dr. Plechner's protocol as I was desperate and never gave up hope searching for some help. A dear friend of mine told me about this protocol, and actually had success with her own dog, who began to suffer as she was bombarded with Meds for a mere infection. I ran the test, and as we suspected her levels were low. Low Cortisol, high estrogen. So I started her on Pred 2.5



mg/ day as well as continuing on her Thyro Tabs - .2 a day. Within a week, the change was nothing short of miraculous. No more conjunctivitis, no more smelly skin, no more skin infections, more energy and way more happier!!! It was like she became a new dog. The best was from that day forward – she has never had to wear another t-shirt. This protocol has changed my life as I can now enjoy my beautiful dog, and not waste money, time, and energy

searching for answers. In my travels, you can see I have tried pretty much everything. There are some people who want to learn and embrace new ways of thinking, and Dr. Plechner is one of them. Have a look at the before and after, and you be the judge. The proof is in her rising cortisol levels, along with her decreased estrogen. I have seen this with my own eyes. The proof is in Kate's eyes!