

## Explanation of Hydrolyzed Chicken Diets for Dermatology Patients:

Diets: Z/D Chicken Hills, Ha Chicken Purina, Ha vegetarian Purina, Ha Salmon Purina

Hydrolyzed chicken diets are specialized pet foods where the chicken protein is broken down into smaller peptides, making them easier to digest and less likely to trigger allergic reactions in pets.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **What is Hydrolysis?**

Hydrolysis is a process that uses water and enzymes to break down large protein molecules into smaller fragments called peptides.

- **Why Hydrolyze?**

This process makes the protein more digestible and less likely to be recognized as an allergen by the pet's immune system.

- **Benefits for Pets:**

- **Reduced Allergenicity:** The smaller peptide fragments are less likely to trigger allergic reactions compared to intact protein molecules.
- **Improved Digestion:** Hydrolyzed proteins are easier for the digestive system to process, which can be beneficial for pets with sensitive stomachs.
- **Food Allergy Management:** Hydrolyzed diets are often used as a therapeutic tool for pets with food allergies or sensitivities.

- **How Hydrolyzed Protein Diets Work:**

- **Targeted Approach:** These diets are designed to provide small peptides instead of whole proteins, making them less likely to stimulate an immune response.
- **Not Novel Diets:** Hydrolyzed diets aren't necessarily novel protein sources, but rather, they focus on the form of the protein, not the type.

- **Examples of Hydrolyzed Protein Sources:**

Chicken, chicken liver, soy, and other protein sources can be hydrolyzed.

- **Considerations:**

- **Not a Long-Term Solution:** Hydrolyzed diets are often used as a temporary solution to help identify food allergens and manage symptoms.
- **Consult with a Veterinarian:** If you suspect your pet has food allergies, it's important to consult with a veterinarian to determine if a hydrolyzed diet is appropriate and to guide the elimination diet process.