INSIDE AN ALLERGIC REACTION

Here’s what happens in someone’s body when he or she has an allergic reaction to cats.

1. An allergen called Fel d1 is in cat saliva. When cats groom themselves, the allergen sticks to their fur and is released into the environment.

2. People breathe in the allergen or touch it while petting their cat.

3. The body thinks the allergens are threats and releases compounds, called histamines, to stop the allergens. This triggers an allergic reaction.

QUICK QUIZ: Answer the following questions using what you learned from the article and the diagram (left).

1. Scientists created a(n) _____ that may lessen allergic reactions to cats.
   - allergy medicine
   - drink
   - cat food
   - cat collar

2. Ebenezer Satyaraj wanted to know _____.
   - if sneezing is a symptom of cat allergies
   - if he could stop allergic reactions to cats
   - if cat hair causes cat allergies
   - if cat food causes cat allergies

3. Cat allergens are released into the environment when cats ______.
   - purr
   - groom
   - sleep
   - eat

4. Which of the following was NOT part of Satyaraj’s investigation?
   - collecting hair from cats on a special diet
   - exposing people to blankets covered with cat hair
   - feeding a special food to people with cat allergies
   - noting the allergy symptoms of people exposed to cat allergens

5. Which of the following is true about cat allergies?
   - Everyone has cat allergies.
   - Children don’t have cat allergies.
   - For some people, petting a cat can trigger an allergic reaction.
   - All people with cat allergies dislike cats.