

East Indian sandalwood oil (EISO) is the key ingredient in these grooming products for dogs with allergies and sensitive skin.

Allergies can have many causes, but here's one you probably haven't heard of. In 2008, Marianne Cronin's dog, Roxy, ate a zipper from a sweat shirt. "It had to be surgically removed from her stomach, and afterwards she became allergic to everything," says Marianne's partner, musician Vito San Filippo. "Her hair fell out in patches and her skin was irritated and itchy. We were constantly dragging her to the vet for medication."

The meds didn't do much, so Marianne and Vito explored alternatives. "We started researching botanicals and topicals in the pet industry," says Vito. Marianne also drew on her more than 20 years' experience in the beauty and cosmetics industry to find ingredients that would help Roxy. One of these ingredients stood out – East Indian sandalwood oil (EISO). Steam distilled from the heartwood of the sandalwood tree, EISO is good for human skin, and Marianne thought it could also help Roxy. "We formulated a line of EISO grooming products that turned out to be so effective we want to share it with every other dog out there," Vito says. "Because human and canine mast cells function very similarly, we believe the human research and safety data on EISO is also relevant to dogs, and we have been working with veterinarians, scientists and clinicians to test our products and develop new ones. We're just starting to see how amazing EISO is for canine skin."

Vito and Marianne officially launched Roxy's Remedies (The Natural Solution for Dogs With Sensitive SkinTM) last year. The company offers a shampoo and conditioner, itch relief spray gel and cleansing wipes, all featuring EISO along with other natural ingredients such as oat kernel extract and aloe vera. "The products are formulated to clean, comfort and condition the skin and coats of dogs with sensitive skin, but they're great for all dogs. They're pH balanced for canine skin, and we've left out everything that could irritate sensitive skin, such as harsh surfactants, parabens, alcohol, silicones, colors and artificial fragrances."

To ensure the EISO Marianne and Vito use is earth-friendly— wild East Indian sandalwood is almost extinct — they've partnered with Santalis Pharmaceuticals and TFS Corporation, a world leader in eco-friendly and sustainable EISO production. "They plant, harvest and process purely pharmaceutical gradeEISO, so we have an exclusive supply of this very special gift of nature," says Vito.

Although Roxy's Remedies is only a year old, Marianne and Vito have already enjoyed a lot of success. "We are helping dogs everywhere, and creating a proactive community to support less fortunate dogs." The company supports several animal organizations and causes, including Pets of the Homeless, the Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center, and the Go Fund Me Dogs of Nepal

Quake Survivor Fund. "We also participate in local rescue events," Vito says. "We have a mission to improve the lives of dogs everywhere. We love giving back and supporting the less fortunate canine community, as well as receiving positive feedback from people using our products on their dogs."

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