FIGURE 4
Assessing Diet Trial Results

Discontinue antipruritic therapy at wk 2–3 of trial, then recheck and reassess pruritus at 4 wk

Is dog pruritic?

YES

Resume antipruritic therapy for 2-3 wk and continue the diet for an additional 4 wk

NO

Perform a food challenge by reintroducing the dog’s previous diet

Did the pruritus return within 14 days?

YES

Return to the elimination diet. May require restarting antipruritic therapy for 1-2 wk (oclacitinib or oral steroids)

NO

Food allergy is ruled OUT, consider atopy

Discontinue antipruritic therapy

Did the pruritus return within 14 days?

YES

Recheck skin cytology—if no indication of yeast and/or bacterial infection secondary to the diet challenge, then the dog does not have food allergy. Consider atopy.

NO

Dog has food allergy

The 2023 AAHA Management of Allergic Skin Diseases Guidelines are available at aaha.org/allergic-diseases.

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