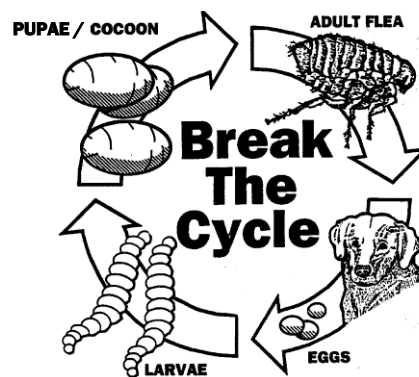


Flea and Tick Control

Flea and tick control and prevention is a key factor in keeping your pet safe from disease and your home free of unwanted guests. Checking your pet for pests after it comes in from outside is a great way to spot and remove ticks and begin treatment for fleas immediately.

There are four stages in the flea life cycle: adult, egg, larva and cocoon/pupae. In and around the home, there are three areas where fleas, at various stages of development, are likely to be: on your pet, in the yard and on the carpet, upholstery and drapery inside your home.

No single product can kill fleas in all four stages of their life cycle in all the areas they live. It takes a program consisting of the right combination of products applied at exactly the right time to kill fleas during the key stages of their life cycle.



Traditional/Synthetic Flea Control Solutions:

Products include: topical spot-ons, sprays, collars, shampoos, powders for pets, foggers for home and yard, carpet sprays and powders, etc.

Active ingredients include: Methoprine, Pyrethrin, Permethrin, Piperonyl Butoxide, Linalool, Nylar, Fipronil, Propoxur, etc.

REMEMBER: do not use too many chemicals at the same time – it can make your pet sick. Do not use a flea and tick preventative in conjunction with a flea and tick collar.

Natural Flea Control Solutions:

Products include: shampoos, pet sprays, pet powders and home/carpet sprays.

Active ingredients include: Castor Oil, Cinnamon Oil, Cedar Oil, Clove Oil, Lemon Grass, Citronella, Peppermint, Brewer's Yeast, Garlic, Pennyroyal Oil, D-Limonene, Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth, Boric Acid.

Read Labels Carefully Before Using Any Flea Product! Some products are especially toxic to cats—never use products in any way other than indicated.

Flea Facts:

- Fleas are small wingless insects that live on mammals and birds and suck blood for food.
- They lay their eggs in bedding, carpets or other areas.
- The hatched larvae crawl into bedding and cracks in the floor.
- A full life cycle takes about two to three weeks to develop through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult.
- They can be controlled at every stage except the pupa when they are virtually indestructible.
- Fleas prefer animals with thick coats, but can live on various animals including humans, moving from the body of one host to another.
- 10 female fleas can lay 50 eggs apiece, for a total of 500 eggs per day. That would mean the potential for 15,000 eggs in one month. If half of those eggs are female, once they hatch, it would result in an additional 375,000 eggs per day, for a total of 11,250,000 fleas in just 60 days!
- Flea pupae can remain frozen for up to three years and then revive.

How Do I Know My Pet Has Fleas?

- Excessive scratching.
- Flea “dirt” on your pet – looks like black pepper on your pet’s skin, it is actually flea excrement. If flea dirt is present, there are fleas somewhere as well.
- Use a flea comb regularly to check for fleas.

Why Should I Treat for Fleas?

Fleas are more than just a nuisance. Fleas can cause your pet(s) serious medical problems. Many dogs and cats are highly sensitive to flea bites and may develop an allergic reaction. Fleas also transmit tapeworms and cause infested animals anemia (severe blood loss) not to mention great pain and misery.

Once your pet becomes infested, products must be used to exterminate the existing flea population. All affected areas must be treated including, your pet’s bedding; the areas outside your home where your pet spends a lot of time; and all carpets, furniture and drapery inside your home. Failure to properly treat all areas will increase the likelihood that some fleas or eggs could survive and re-infest your pet and your home.

How Do I Get Rid of Fleas?

There are 3 steps to complete flea control:

1) Pet Control

Use a shampoo that is made specifically for flea control. All pets in the household should be treated for fleas simultaneously.

2) Home & Yard Control

Foggers are easy to use and effective to treat large areas of your home when you have an infestation. Carpet sprays and powders reach underneath other furniture not treated by the fogger. Fleas picked up in the yard become your problem. Treat the yard and avoid infestations.

3) Ongoing Maintenance

Use a topical flea product to prevent fleas from using your pet as a host. Repeat home and yard treatments within 7-10 days to ensure effective treatment of an infestation. Continue repeating treatments until fleas are gone.

How Do I Prevent Fleas?

We recommend using flea treatments year round for best results. Most monthly topical flea treatments are easy to use and are effective at killing and repelling fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.

A common misconception is that fleas and other parasites aren't a problem in the winter. This is not the case. Under the right conditions, such as a midwinter warm spell, fleas can survive and reproduce indoors. The onset of flea season is impossible to predict.