



FLEAS AND YOUR PET

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fleas are small, brown or black, wingless insects with flattened bodies. Several types of fleas infest the haircoats of animals, and some may occasionally feed on people. These blood-sucking insects cause considerable irritation and distress to infested pets. Severe infestations may lead to anemia from blood loss. ***Fleas spread the common dog and cat tapeworm and carry several viral and bacterial diseases. Flea bites also cause skin allergies, rashes and sores on both pets and their owners.***

The best place to look for fleas on your pet are the ***hindquarters, base of the tail, stomach and groin region.*** Sometimes no fleas are found but only ***tiny, black granules that resemble black pepper.*** This material is ***flea dirt*** and consists of digested blood (“blood crumbs”). To distinguish this material from soil, smudge it on white paper or add a drop of water to it. If you see a reddish-brown color, your pet has fleas, even if you can’t find any.

LIFE CYCLE

After taking blood meals, female fleas lay eggs, which fall off the pet and into cracks, crevices and carpeting or outdoors. A single breeding pair of fleas may produce ***20,000 fleas in 3 months.*** Eggs hatch after 2-12 days into larvae that feed in the environment. Larvae moult 2 times within 2-200 days and the older larvae spin a cocoon in which they remain for 1 week to 1 year. ***The long period during which the larvae remain in cocoon explains why fleas are so difficult to eradicate from the environment.*** A hungry adult flea emerges from the cocoon.

FLEA CONTROL

It should be obvious from the above discussion that merely treating your pet(s) will not solve a flea problem, since eggs, larvae, and cocoons in the environment will soon become adults and re-infest your pet. Therefore, ***in heavy flea infestations,*** treating your home is just as important as treating your pets.

Since the recent development of topical, non-absorbed flea killing products for dogs and cats, and new oral products for dogs, flea treatment and prevention has become immensely easier. By combining flea treatments for the pets and in-home sprays containing flea growth regulators, we can attack all phases of the flea life cycle and rid fleas more quickly and easily. ***It is VERY important to understand that seeing fleas on your treated pets is NOT treatment failure but rather the most recently “hatched” fleas getting on your pet to feed. Adult fleas MUST get on the pet to be killed by the good quality products you are using.***

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WHEN FLEAS ARE PRESENT

1.) Treat your pet as follows: (All pets in the household MUST be treated!)

- a) Apply **FRONTLINE PLUS or FRONTLINE GOLD** flea killing liquid according to directions. Oral **NEXGARD** chewable tablets can be given to dogs.
- b) Re-administer flea killer every *4 weeks* until *1 month* after a *killing frost* to be certain of a total flea kill. A **MINIMUM of 3 months of treatment is required to get through all the stages of the flea lifecycle.**
- c) For Multi-pet households, ALL pets MUST be treated at the same time.

1.) TREAT INDOORS AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Vacuum the entire home thoroughly to collect as many fleas, flea eggs, larvae and cocoons as possible. Seal and discard vacuum bag.
- b) Use IGR premise spray (**Mycodex or Knockout**) in the entire house according to the directions. Re-treat the entire home 2 weeks later to eliminate fleas that were in the cocoon stage during the first treatment. IGR products will then prevent eggs from hatching and larvae from developing for at least 4 months.

FLEA PREVENTION—A SIMPLE WAY TO AVOID FLEA PROBLEMS

- 1.) Apply **FRONTLINE PLUS or GOLD** to all pets or NEXGARD for dogs. (re-apply monthly for ALL pets)
- 2.) Spray IGR premise spray (**Mycodex or Knockout**) throughout your entire home according to directions. IGR premise spray will effectively stop the flea life cycle for at least 4 months!

**ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO OUR CLINIC
AT 421-4200**

SUGGESTED PRODUCTS FOR YOUR SITUATION:

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____