

Flea Control for Cats and Dogs

Did you know?

- Adult fleas account for just 5% of the total number of fleas in your environment.
- If there is no host when fleas hatch, they can go for a long time without feeding (upwards of 6 months!). So, even if pets and people aren't home for a few days, an infestation can quickly occur when they return.
- Cold weather reduces—but doesn't eliminate—flea infestation.
- Fleas can and do infest totally indoor-only animals.
- Fleas can transmit "cat scratch fever" to people and can serve as an intermediate host for tapeworms.

Solutions (on the pet)

Treat ALL pets in the household and outside the household year-round for fleas. Apply or give a prevention monthly.

Topical preventions include: Activyl for dogs and Cheristin for cats.

Topical preventions that also treat heartworm as well as fleas include: Revolution & Advantage-Multi.

Or, if you prefer an **oral prevention:** Comfortis (fleas only) or Trifexis (includes heartworm and intestinal parasite prevention).

All of the above products last 30 days per dose.

A flea shampoo, like Ovitrol X-tend, can also be used to get rid of an initial infestation; however, all flea shampoos only last as long as the shampoo is on the pet. Once rinsed off fleas can immediately re-infest the pet. If a flea shampoo is used wait at least 48 hours before applying a topical prevention.

For very young puppies and kittens (under 8 weeks of age) use a flea comb to manually remove the fleas from the hair coat. If the puppy or kitten is too young to use a topical prevention or flea shampoo you can bathe him or her with Dawn dish soap.

Solutions (for the environment)

Treat your house AND your yard with Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs). Premise sprays, like Siphotrol Plus II, are especially effective for inside the house. For any product you use indoors always follow the label instructions carefully. Some products can be harmful to people and pets when first applied.

Vacuum all carpeting regularly to pick up flea eggs and larva. Focus vacuuming under furniture and around areas your pet likes to sleep. Also, put a flea collar in your vacuum bag to kill any fleas you pick up while cleaning. Launder all bedding, blankets and/or pillows your pet frequently uses in hot water.

Retreat your house and yard every three weeks if you are having issues controlling the flea population or if you are still seeing fleas on your pet even though they are on prevention year-round.

In some extreme cases you may need to hire a professional exterminator to treat your house and yard.

DO NOT

Do not use flea collars as your flea prevention. Often they are only effective around the head and neck. They do not provide protection over the entire pet. (An exception to this rule is the new Seresto collar, available only through veterinarians with a prescription.)

Do not use grocery store brand topical preventions like Hartz, Sargents, or Sentry. These products use old generation insecticides which at best may not work as the label indicates and at worst can be very harmful to your pet. Also, it has been found that fleas and ticks are naturally resistant to many of the over-the-counter products.

