



Flea Control Info for Owners

Your pet has fleas. Once the shock subsides, we can help formulate a plan of attack. Understanding how fleas live and reproduce is important in creating the best plan and knowing if things are progressing as hoped.

Your pet needs to have an effective treatment that kills adult fleas in such a fashion that they cannot lay more eggs that continue the life cycle. Some products do this by killing the adults super-fast, before they can lay eggs. Other products kill the adults, and then sterilize any eggs they lay so as to interrupt the cycle. These products may be oral or topical. We suggest you discuss your individual pet, their health, and your concerns with our team to pick the best product for your situation.

It's important that ALL pets in your household receive treatment, even if you aren't seeing fleas. Cats in particular will groom fleas off themselves, but those fleas have already laid eggs and continued the cycle. Just because you don't see them

doesn't mean they aren't still causing problems.

If fertile eggs are laid in the environment of your home or garden, those eggs hatch into larvae (think tiny worm-stages), which then form a cocoon in the pupae stage. Larvae can be killed in the environment with chemical treatment, but pupae essentially act like a bomb shelter. You can only deal with this life stage by physically removing them, OR waiting for them to emerge as new baby fleas and jump on your pet. Sometimes you can't remove those pupae in their bomb shelters, which is why having your pets on treatment is important.

By interrupting the life cycle with the right flea treatment, we turn your pet(s) into 'living flea vaccums'. We kill the adult fleas that are already there, stop them laying more eggs, and then continue to kill any new baby fleas that emerge from their pupae cocoons over time.

In order to remove these eggs and pupae physically, vacuum any carpets 1-2x weekly. Empty the bag/collection container into a plastic bag and then take to the bin outside, as those pupae will begin emerging in response to the heat, light, and movement of the vacuum. Carpet shampooing may help, too, but the jury is still out. Wash pet bedding (and human bedding if they sleep with you) regularly with soap and water.

For outdoor areas, removing collections of leaves and other vegetative clutter can help. Also consider enlisting the help of pest control specialists. You may need to treat the outside areas around your home and fence lines with outside pest treatments regularly, particularly if cats or possums visit your yard. Don't forget to treat under the building if there is a crawl space.

It can take 3 months for all immature stages for environmental eggs and pupae to hatch-out and get on your pet. Helping to physically remove these stages will shorten that period of time, but the occasional flea may still be seen. *You may still see the occasional flea during these three months, and that is normal and expected.* If they are not decreasing in number significantly during this time, however, then the plan may need a revisit.

Also note that fleas can lead to a tapeworm in dogs and cats. When pets groom themselves and ingest the flea, the life stage of the tapeworm within the flea sets up shop in your pet. It takes about six weeks for that tapeworm to reach maturity and show up. We would recommend checking a fecal test for pets about 2 months after diagnosis of flea infestation to ensure this hasn't happened.

Please use this link to access an informative video on our website regarding the flea lifecycle for your information.

http://www.petsandtheirpeople.com.au/profiles/flea_lifecycle.html