

Flea Control for Dogs and Cats


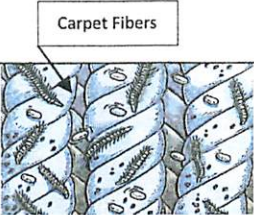
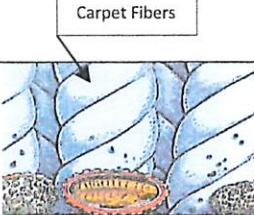

Fleas are harmful! Fleas can carry several diseases that can be transmitted to your pet. They are also a vector to spread a common species of tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*), which your pet may contract through ingestion of the flea while grooming itself. Flea bites can cause skin irritation and induce an allergic reaction, which may lead to a skin infection. Life threatening anemia can occur in very small cats and dogs that have fleas.

Protect your pet! Safe prevention and treatment is available for your pet and the environment thru your veterinarian. **We can help you** select the medication that best fits you and your pet's lifestyle.

- We recommend: Nexgard, Bravecto, Trifexis or Revolution EVERY MONTH of the year.
- Environmental maintenance and treatment is important for quicker resolution of a flea problem.
 - Wash all bedding and towels 2-3 times each week (ideally for 1-2 months).
 - Use a product containing insect growth regulators (IGRs) to destroy the adult fleas, but also the flea eggs and larvae in the environment.
 - The product that we recommend is **Virbac Knockout E.S. Area Treatment Spray**.
 - Use in the home and outdoors if necessary based on the severity of the flea presence on your pet and in the environment. *Read and closely follow the instructions on the product you are using.* Some IGR products require you and your pets to leave your home after application; some just recommend you go to a different room in the house. Target dark areas such as the space underneath the furniture.
 - Vacuum the carpet or floors regularly to stimulate the pre-emerged adult flea to come out of its cocoon where it is not protected. You can also spray a small amount of IGRs into the vacuum canister or bag to kill fleas when they are sucked up. Discard contents of canister or discard bag after use.

Attaining flea control requires patience. It can take 3-6 months to get an infested household under control. Do not get discouraged; a flea free future is ahead!

Life cycle of a flea: It only takes one flea to start the cycle!

Life Stage	Flea Egg	Flea Larvae	Flea Pupae	Adult Flea
Population	50%	35%	10%	5%
Important Details	<p>Nearly microscopic</p> <p>Laid by the adult flea after taking a blood meal</p> <p>Laid on your pet, some will stay and some will fall off into the environment</p> <p>Hatch in 1-6 days, high humidity and high temperature promote rapid hatching</p>	<p>Feed on organic matter in your house and on adult flea feces</p> <p>Prefer warm, dark and moist spaces</p> <p><u>Inside:</u> They prefer a dark space, which means they will hide under furniture. They also like carpet fibers.</p> <p><u>Outside:</u> They prefer organic matter such as grass, branches, leaves and soil. They seek out shaded areas just like our pets do.</p>	<p>Protected by a sticky cocoon that easily collects debris, which allows them to blend into the home and outdoor environments</p> <p>Resistant to insecticide in this life cycle stage</p> <p>Become adults in 7-14 days</p> <p>Only emerge if stimulated by physical pressure, heat or CO₂</p> <p>Can only survive for a few days if they are unable to feed on a host</p>	<p>Attracted to the light and your pet to feed</p> <p>As soon as 24 hours after the flea's first blood meal female fleas start producing eggs</p> <p>Adult female fleas will live a max of about 5 weeks and layup to 50 eggs per day.</p> <p>50 X 35 = 1,750 eggs per flea lifetime</p>
Depiction	 0.5mm	 1-2mm	 2-3mm	 2-4mm

* *Ctenocephalides felis*- most common flea species found on dogs and cats