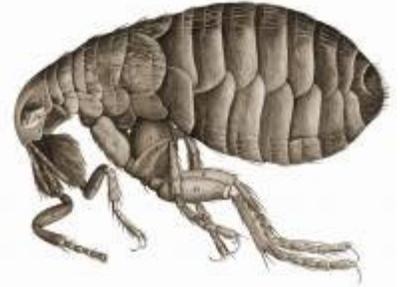


# Flea Treatment

## What are they and how do they affect my pet?

Fleas are small, brown wingless insects. They begin as eggs which hatch into larvae and develop a cocoon, then finally become adult fleas. Eggs, larvae and cocoons live in the environment, but adult fleas live on animals and feed on their blood. Fleas are pests and can cause multiple problems for our pets, including allergic reactions to their saliva, irritation of the skin as well as blood loss.

An adult flea can live up to 100 days, while cocoons can live for months. Cocooned fleas act as a reservoir, living in your carpet and elsewhere in the environment. When conditions are right, they hatch and continually re-infest your home. If your animal has been scratching or twitchy and you suspect fleas, we advise an examination by your veterinarian to ensure a correct diagnosis and speedy recovery.



## How do I get rid of fleas?

Because fleas live in different life stages in the environment and as adults on your pet, both treatment of the animal and the environment is critical in controlling the problem.

### ✓ **Environment**

#### *Vacuuming:*

- Flea cocoons can survive in the carpet for extended periods. They must be killed or removed to break the cycle.
- Vacuuming is an inexpensive tool helpful in removing some eggs, larvae and cocoons from the environment. All areas should be vacuumed including furniture, beneath furniture, all carpeted floors and baseboard areas.

*The vacuum should be emptied after cleaning.*

- Steam cleaning is not helpful as the added moisture in the carpet may promote the hatching of eggs.
- Spray all vacuum cleaner bags with premise spray before vacuuming to help prevent spread.

#### *Premise Spray (Siphotrol 1000):*

- Sprays should include both an insecticide such as permethrin to kill the adult fleas, as well as an insect growth regulator to kill the larvae. The spraying often needs to be repeated in 5-14 days.
- Cover all carpets and upholstered areas in the house, even those less frequently visited by your pet. Include crevices in hardwood floors, baseboards and under furniture.
- Dogs, cats and people can return to the house or room in 15 minutes to an hour. Birds, reptiles and small mammals can return after 24 hours.
- Fleas may be seen for up to a week after treatment. For the first day or two it may even appear that there are more fleas, as they become active trying to escape the spray.
- Pregnant women should not apply the treatment. They can return to the house or room 1 hour after treatment.

### ✓ **Treating your pet**

No treatment is 100% effective by itself. It is important to remember that all animals in the home should be treated. Using a flea comb may help remove up to 80% of adult fleas, but is much less effective in longer haired animals. Combing alone will not eliminate the fleas.

#### *Mousse:*

- This is superior to commercial shampoos and ideally includes both an insecticide and an insect growth regulator to be most effective.
- Flea mousse *cannot be used on animals less than 8 weeks of age, pregnant animals or those who are nursing.*

#### *Topical & Oral Treatments:*

#### **Advantage**

- A topical application used once monthly for usually at least three months.
- It is applied to your pet's skin and is absorbed into the fat layer.
- Advantage is toxic to fleas on contact, but is completely safe for pets and people.

#### **Revolution**

- This topical medication includes coverage against fleas, heartworm, intestinal worms, ticks and certain types of mites.

#### **NexGard**

- Chewable tablet used once monthly, fast kill (within 24 hours). **Dogs 8 weeks and older, over 1.8kg.**

#### **Simparica**

- Chewable tablet used once monthly, fast kill (within 8 hours). **Dogs 6 months and older, over 1.3kg.**

#### **Bravecto**

- Chewable tablet used every 12 weeks, fast kill (within 12 hours). **Dogs 6 months and older, over 2kg.**