

FLEAS

FACTS

FLEAS ARE THE MOST COMMON EXTERNAL PARASITES SEEN ON DOGS AND CATS, AND A VERY COMMON CAUSE OF SKIN DISEASE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT FLEAS ARE NOT A SIGN OF NEGLECT OR POOR HYGIENE, ANY PET CAN GET FLEAS IF THEY ARE NOT TREATED WITH FLEA PREVENTION PRODUCTS.

FLEAS LIVE IN YOUR PET'S COAT, FEEDING ON BLOOD. THE ADULT FLEAS WILL LAY THEIR EGGS AWAY FROM YOUR PET, IN THE ENVIRONMENT. EACH FLEA CAN LAY UP TO 20,000 EGGS AND THESE WILL HATCH OUT IN YOUR PET'S BEDDING. JUST A FEW FLEAS ON YOUR PET WILL MEAN POTENTIALLY THOUSANDS OF EGGS WAITING TO HATCH!!

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY PET HAS FLEAS?

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO TELL IF YOUR PET HAS FLEAS. FIRSTLY, YOU MAY SEE THEM AS SMALL BROWN INSECTS CRAWLING IN YOUR PET'S FUR - BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK TO SPOT THEM AS THEY JUMP VERY QUICKLY. ANOTHER SIGN YOU MAY NOTICE IS FLEA DIRT IN YOUR PET'S FUR. FLEA DIRT IS TINY BLACK GRITTY GRAINS OF DRIED FLEA FAECES, WHICH MAY BE PRESENT IN LARGE NUMBERS. A FINE TOOTHED COMB WILL HELP YOU SPOT FLEAS AND FLEA DIRT. OTHER SIGNS OF FLEA PROBLEMS INCLUDE ITCHING AND SCRATCHING AND SKIN SCURF OR INFECTIONS. CATS WITH FLEA INFESTATIONS WILL OVER GROOM, OFTEN TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THEY WILL PULL THEIR OWN FUR OUT OF THEIR BACKS.

WHAT CAN I DO TO TREAT AND PREVENT FLEAS?

THERE ARE MANY FLEA PRODUCTS AVAILABLE, RANGING FROM FLEA COLLARS AND SHAMPOOS, THROUGH TO SPRAYS, SPOT-ON PREPARATIONS AND INJECTIONS. WE RECOMMEND USING A VET STRENGTH (PRESCRIPTION ONLY) FLEA TREATMENT EVERY 4 - 12 WEEKS TO SUIT YOUR PET'S LIFESTYLE. OUR RANGE OF **PET CLUB PACKAGES** HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO INCLUDE FLEA CONTROL TREATMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO VIEW FLEA CONTROL AS **PREVENTION** RATHER THAN CURE. IF YOUR PET GETS FLEAS, THEY WILL QUICKLY LAY EGGS LEADING TO A FLEA POPULATION EXPLOSION. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME BRANDS OF FLEA TREATMENT FOR DOGS SOLD BY SUPERMARKETS AND PET SHOPS CONTAIN THE INSECTICIDE, **PERMETHRIN**, WHICH IS HIGHLY TOXIC TO CATS. NONE OF THE PRODUCTS THAT WE STOCK CONTAIN THIS INGREDIENT AND ARE THEREFORE MUCH SAFER FOR MULTI PET HOUSEHOLDS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE RANGE OF PRODUCTS WE PRESCRIBE, PLEASE CALL
OUR SMALL ANIMAL TEAM ON: 01 572 722646

VISIT www.oakhamvethospital.co.uk FOR OUR OPENING HOURS.