

## Fleas

**The onset of warmer summer weather traditionally marks the beginning of the flea “season”. However central heating and soft furnishings make ideal breeding grounds for fleas – all year round!**

Although fleas are tiny – just 2mm in length – they are a major cause of irritation to both pets and their owners! Adult fleas spend the majority of their lives on our pets, feeding on blood and reproducing. Female fleas typically lay 30-60 or more eggs per day. These tiny white eggs fall off the coat of the animal and onto carpets and soft furnishings around the home. The eggs develop into flea larvae, which in turn develop into pupae which can lie dormant before hatching out into adult fleas. In warm weather the entire life-cycle may be completed in as little as two weeks whilst, in colder weather, the pupae may remain dormant for many months before hatching.



Fleas survive by feeding on your pet's blood, often causing severe skin irritations and infections and occasionally anaemia. Fleas can also carry tapeworm larvae and because our pets swallow fleas when grooming, they may become infected with tapeworms as a result.

The key to controlling fleas is to break their life-cycle. We have a range of safe and very effective flea products, both for your pet and your home, and we are happy to advise you on the best form of flea control to suit your requirements.

### What can fleas do to my pet?

- Flea bites cause discomfort and irritation.
- Many pets become sensitised to flea bites which leads to intense itchiness, and severe self-inflicted trauma **flea allergy**.
- Fleas are responsible for transmitting tapeworms to our pets

### How can I control the flea problem?

- Please consult us - we have found that many non-prescription preparations simply do not work well enough to achieve effective flea control.
- It is practically impossible to prevent your pet coming into contact with fleas so regular treatments are necessary to control the problem and prevent a build-up within the home.
- An effective flea control programme may involve the use of a combination of products. These attack both the adult flea stage on your pets AND the immature stages within the home.

Fleas breed throughout the year in centrally heated homes. It is important to treat all cats, dogs and rabbits within a household and to maintain a flea control programme throughout the year. There are 3 main types of treatment:

1. Spot on applications. These are applied on to the skin in the neck region and kill fleas. Some of these preparations have the added benefit of treating worms.
2. By Injection - this injection sterilises fleas and thus 'breaks' the breeding cycle. This lasts six months and so twice yearly injections provides all year round flea control
3. By Mouth – preparations can be given monthly to sterilise fleas.

Where a lapse in flea treatment has allowed a flea infestation to develop, it is important to treat the home environment to remove the existing flea population. Many of these products last 12 months.

### Do not use these products if you keep aquarium fish within the house and use them with caution if a family member suffers from asthma.

- Almost all dogs and cats pick up fleas
- Fleas are present all year round
- Your house may provide a supply of developing fleas to attack your pet
- Fleas are a health hazard to you and your pets
- Effective control involves the use of a combination of products

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