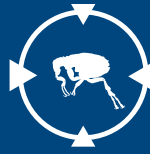


FLEA CONTROL MEASURES



Fleas can spread several zoonotic diseases between animals (e.g., tapeworm) or to humans (e.g., plague). Flea prevention and control can reduce the risk of flea-borne diseases in pets and people.

Life Cycle

- The flea life cycle has four stages: egg, larva, pupa, adult
 - Eggs and larvae account for about 80% of the total flea population in an infested home; only 2% are adults
 - The full flea life cycle can range from a few weeks to several months, depending on environmental conditions
 - A female flea can lay 30-50 eggs on an animal each day
 - The eggs can fall off of the pet to areas such as the carpet, furniture, pet bedding, or other locations
 - Eggs hatch in 2 to 5 days.
 - Unfed adult fleas can survive many weeks in cool humid conditions, but do not survive sub-freezing conditions

Prevention

- The best flea management programs focus on prevention, especially for the immature flea stages. This consists of two focus areas
 - Prevent fleas from entering the home
 - Keep immature stages from maturing into adults
- Once fleas have invaded your home, it is too late for most prevention steps - control measures must be taken
- Work with your veterinarian to determine the best flea preventive product for your pet
 - A number of products (e.g., Frontline®, Advantage®, Program®) are available

Flea Control Measures

- Effective flea control should involve both chemical and physical methods
- Treatment of your pet, as well as the inside and outside of your home will be necessary
- Environmental measures are critical for flea control
 - Vacuum all areas accessed by your pet, as well as under and around furniture where the pet sits or sleeps
 - Discard the vacuum bag or waste into a sealed container or bag and dispose of the bag outside in the trash
 - Continue to vacuum in this manner every other day for 10 days to 2 weeks to remove any newly hatched fleas
 - Regularly – once a week – wash pet bedding and throw rugs in hot water
 - A number of environmental flea control products (e.g., sprays, foggers) are available
 - Keep weeds and vegetation in yards trimmed short to minimize potential flea habitat

- For pets, multiple spot-on or spray products are available
 - Contact your veterinarian to determine the best product to use for your pet and situation
 - Some over-the-counter products can be toxic to certain pets or to young animals - so seek veterinary advice
- Topical flea baths may help reduce flea populations on the animal
 - Topical flea baths can be toxic in specific species
 - Always read the product label before using
 - **Never** use organophosphate agents or chlorinated hydrocarbons on **cats** due to risk of toxicity
- After application of any flea-control product, monitor your pet for any side effects
 - Contact your veterinarian, if any are noted
 - If you have multiple pets, keep them separated after applying flea-preventive or flea-control products. This will prevent pets from grooming each other and ingesting the drug or pesticide

Always read and follow all label directions carefully for any pesticide (flea prevention or control product) that you use.

Disclaimer: The use of trade names does not in any way signify endorsement of a particular product.

For More Information

- Flea Control. National Pesticide Information Center at <http://npic.orst.edu/pest/flea.html>
- Fleas. Entomology Fact Sheet. D. Shetlar and J. Andon. The Ohio State University Extension at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/pdf/2081.pdf>
- Integrated Flea Control. Barb Ogg, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/007Fleas.pdf>
- Flea Control. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at <https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications>
- Fleas and Flea Control. Washington State University Cooperative Extension at <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/resources/pdf/pls117fleas.pdf>
- Safe Use of Flea and Tick Products in Pets. U.S. Food and Drug Administration at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM172781.pdf>
- How to Manage Pets: Fleas. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/pnfleas.pdf>