



## **Prevention is better than cure!**

For every adult flea, there are 500 potential fleas at various stages in your house in the form of eggs, larvae and pupae.

# Fleas...

...Fleas are a problem all year round. Warm, damp weather in the spring and summer is an ideal environment for fleas. Once the autumn comes round, on goes the central heating and out come the fleas!

## **Where does my cat get fleas from?**

The most common flea found on cats and dogs is the cat flea. Rarely, rabbit fleas are seen.

The most important source of cat fleas is the newly developed adult fleas from the pupae in your house. Adult fleas live and feed on animals, but the female lays eggs that fall off into the environment. Under favourable conditions these eggs develop first into larvae and then to pupae. The pupae contain adult fleas, which lie in wait for a suitable host. Modern, carpeted and centrally heated homes provide ideal conditions for the year round development of fleas. The highest numbers of flea eggs are found where your pet spends most time. Just because you can't see the fleas in your house doesn't mean you have not got them; the eggs are too small to see and the larvae migrate deep into carpets and furniture away from light.

Your cat can also pick up fleas from close contact with other cats, dogs or sleeping in an area where other animals lie can also pass fleas to your cat.

## **How do fleas affect my cat?**

Many cats live with fleas but show minimal signs.

Adult fleas live on the animal and feed on blood. Young kittens and debilitated animals may become anaemic. This can be serious, causing lethargy and even death.

Some cats are allergic to flea saliva. When a flea feeds from a cat, it first injects saliva into the skin. If your cat is allergic to flea saliva, it will groom and scratch excessively causing sores, scabs and skin disease.

Humans too, can be allergic to flea bites. Unsightly raised, itchy bumps appear usually around the ankles. This is from recently hatched adult fleas which were lying in wait in the carpet.

Fleas are the intermediate host for tapeworm. Tapeworm eggs, which are shed within tapeworm segments in cat's faeces, are eaten by flea's larvae that develop into infected fleas. Eating infected fleas during grooming infests cats. Any cat with fleas is also likely to have tapeworm.

## **Remember...**

...treating your kitten regularly with a suitable product that works will prevent all of the above. Please ask us to advise you on the best product for your kitten.