

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 & Ticks

Unless treated routinely, most dogs will have fleas at some point in their lives (even much loved, regularly bathed dogs!)

Our recommendation is that you treat your puppy regularly with a suitable and effective veterinary product, on which we can advise you. Ticks are oval shaped insects which attach to your pet's skin in order to feed. They can resemble a wart-like lump so if you are unsure, always ask a qualified member of staff to take a look. Never pull a tick off, you may leave the head under the skin causing infection. The tick DOES NOT need to be killed before removal if a suitable device is used to remove it. To kill a tick, use a suitable veterinary product dabbed directly on to it. It will wither and drop off in a day or so. Petroleum jelly applied over the whole tick can stop it breathing and it will be forced to remove itself from your dog.

The best flea products have dual action on both pet and the environment.

Where does my dog get fleas from?

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! 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. 90% of the lifecycle is off the pet, so it is important to use environmental treatment.

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. Close contact with other dogs, cats or sleeping in an area where other animals lie can also pass fleas to your dog.

How do fleas affect my dog?

Many dogs live with fleas but show minimal signs. Adult fleas live on the animal and feed on blood. Young puppies and debilitated animals may become anaemic. This can be serious, causing lethargy and even death.

Some dogs are allergic to flea saliva. When a flea feeds from a dog, it first injects saliva into the skin. If your dog 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. Consider treating garden sheds, cars and in the summer, your dog's favourite outdoor spot. Bear in mind that your dog may be going into other people's environments. A lot of these problems can be overcome by using a really effective and persistent product on any dogs and cats you may have, to kill adult fleas, as well as treating your home.

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

