

FLEA FACTS

Fleas are small, brown, wingless insects with a pair of powerful legs used for jumping from host to host. The female flea lays her eggs on your pet and they fall off into the environment. Flea eggs typically hatch in 1 to 10 days. Dryness, high heat and extreme cold can keep the eggs from hatching. One female flea can be responsible for an infestation of more than 20,000 adults within 60 days!

Complications from Fleas

- All animals, but especially those of small size, can lose a significant amount of blood each day when heavily infested.
- Fleas can also be responsible for tapeworm infection. Signs of tapeworm are small rice-like worms around the anus or in the stool. Diagnosis is usually made by visual exam since the eggs are difficult to find in a routine fecal exam.
- Some animals are actually allergic to flea saliva. One flea bite can cause an animal to scratch for 1-2 months. Signs of flea allergy include hair loss and sores, especially near the tail.

FLEA CONTROL

There are many good flea products available at this time. Some of the products we have available include:

- Frontline is a topical medication that repels fleas and ticks for 1 month. It is applied to the back of the pet's neck and is absorbed throughout the skin. Your pet needs to be dry 2 days before and 2 days after the application. Some shampoos may strip this product off of your pet.
- Nexguard is an oral medication that prevents fleas and ticks for 1 month.
- Sentinel is an oral heartworm preventative that is given once a month to help prevent fleas. It does not kill adult fleas, but acts on the eggs to prevent them from hatching out. Your pet could

have a flea, but won't have a flea infestation. This product needs to be given with a full meal.

- Revolution is a topical heartworm preventative that kills adult fleas and prevents flea eggs from hatching for 1 month.
- If there is a bad infestation, you may need to also use a premise spray to help control the number of fleas and eggs in the household. It is best to use a product that is safe for your pets as well as one with an insect growth regulator.

General cleaning (sweeping, mopping dusting and vacuuming) can also help to reduce the level of fleas, larva and eggs in your household.