



Fleas

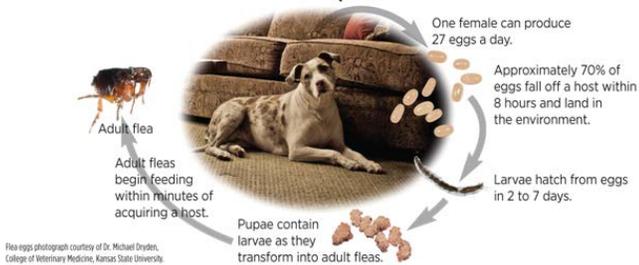
Fleas are blood-sucking parasites that feed on their host's blood. This act of flea feeding causes your pet a lot of irritation. More than just being annoying, fleas can also carry diseases that they can be passed on to pets and even humans.

FLEA LIFE CYCLE

- Adult female fleas lay eggs (5% of lifecycle)
- The eggs fall into the pet's environment (50% of lifecycle)
- The eggs hatch into a worm like form called larvae (35% of lifecycle)
- These develop into a cocoon structure called a pupa (10% of lifecycle)
- Once the flea hatches from the cocoon it will jump onto a passing pet, and if a pet isn't available, a human

FLEA LIFE CYCLE

The flea lifecycle involves four stages, three of which are spent off the host.



WAYS TO PREVENT AN INFESTATION

- Use a product that also has effects on the life stages in the home rather than just the adult fleas on the pet.
- If the environment infestation is bad, it may also help to use environmental treatment measures such as pest control, flea bombs or surface sprays
- Vacuuming your house and washing your pets bedding at 60°C for at least 20 minutes will help get rid of flea environmental stages quicker

- Make sure all pets in your household or any pets that may visit your home are on flea control
- Flea prevention doesn't work if you don't give it, so remember to do this every month

OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR FLEA CONTROL

- There are many products on the market
- It is best to speak to a veterinarian to see what is going to suit you and your pet best

Things to consider:

- Do you just want flea control, or do you need a product that also protects against parasites such as mites, ticks, and intestinal worms and heartworm
- Formulation – can you give your pet a tablet, or is a topical easier?

THINGS TO NOTE WHEN USING FLEA PREVENTION

- 95% of the flea population is in the environment, so when you get rid of fleas on your pet, it is likely that there will be more lifecycle stages in the environment that will still develop into adult fleas and jump onto your pet.
- As a result, it can take some time to fully get rid of flea infestations in your environment.
- Use a product that also has effects on environmental lifecycle stages rather than just adult fleas.

