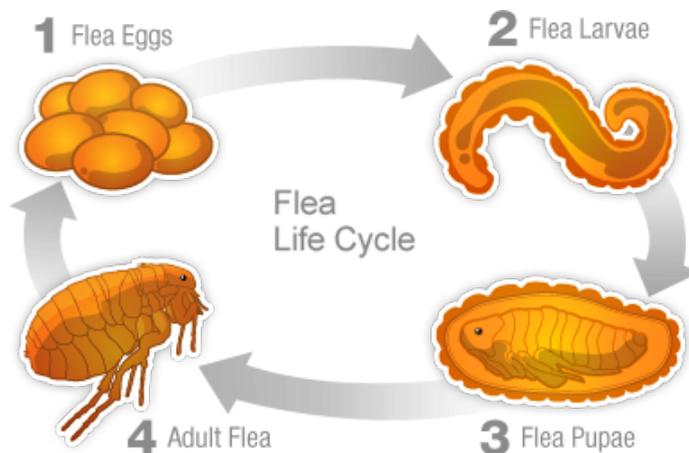


What Do I Need to Know About Fleas?

Hopefully you never have to deal with fleas ... but just in case ...

Facts About Fleas

- Fleas can jump 60 times their own length (approx. 13 inches) and 4 feet high!
- A female flea can lay 500 eggs in her lifetime
- Given the right conditions, 1 flea can turn into 125,000 fleas in 8 weeks.
- Adult fleas are able to survive 2 months without a blood meal
- 95% of fleas exist in sofas and carpets
- A single flea can bite 400 times in one day
- Fleas carry tapeworm larvae, so your dog can also become infected with tapeworms



How do I know if my dog has fleas?

Abnormal Scratching, Licking and/or Biting

You can typically find fleas on your dog's head, neck, tail, armpits, or groin.

Unusual Red Patches of Skin

Flea bite saliva can also be allergenic for some dogs and cats

Hair Loss

Dogs may pull out some of its own hair due to the continuous biting or licking of the flea bite areas.

Pale Gums

Pale gums is a common sign of anemia and can be an indication your pet has a serious case of flea infestation

Flea "Dirt"

Small black or reddish-brown specks on your pet's body. This could be flea "dirt," which is actually flea feces composed of digested blood.



How do I prevent my dog from getting fleas?

Most likely your veterinarian will or has spoken to you about parasite control. By following the medication schedule properly and diligently you likely will never get a flea infestation.



How do I get rid of fleas?

First, you must treat the pet(s). You may give your dog a flea bath but I personally recommend using a product from your veterinarian such as Revolution or Advantage/Advantage Multi for 3 months consecutively to treat your pet.

Then, you must treat your home. Since fleas lay thousands of eggs per day and you ultimately want to prevent them from hatching, you want to destroy the eggs before they hatch. There are many sprays on the market for spraying in the house for this purpose. I have personally have had great experience with Siphotrol which kills most insect in your home including fleas and is available through your veterinarian. If you wish to use a more natural option, I have heard great reviews with a product called diatomaceous earth which you should be able to buy in pet stores. It is advisable that you retreat your home at least every 2 weeks as this is how often a 'new' batch of flea eggs hatch.



Do I need to treat for fleas all year?

Many veterinarians recommend you treat 6 months out of the year, starting in May and giving the last dose in October. However, if you live in an apartment or shared residence with other pet owners, I would highly recommend you treat every month. Also, if your dog goes to daycare, a kennel or to the groomer on a regular basis, I would again recommend you treat year 'round.