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Win the Battle Against Fleas On Your Cat and In Your Home

Once fleas have appeared on your cat, immediate treatment is necessary to control the flea population on the cat and in its surrounding environment.

When fleas appear, flea control involves treatments applied directly to the cat as well as products designed to eliminate fleas from carpets, upholstery, bedding, and other places that fleas like to nest.

First, it helps to understand the flea life cycle:

FLEA LIFE CYCLE:

The life cycle of a flea can be as brief as three weeks. First an adult flea takes in a huge blood meal from its host (the cat). It then lays hundreds of eggs. An adult flea can lay eggs for well over 100 days if left undisturbed. The cat spreads these eggs throughout the house as it moves and scratches. Fleas also lay eggs in the bottom layer of carpeting where it is cool and dark.

The eggs normally hatch into larvae after 2-12 days. However, eggs can stay dormant for up to 8 years!

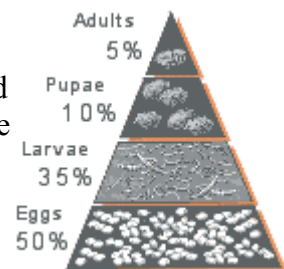
The larvae molt twice within 2 to 200 days and then spin themselves into a cocoon where they pupate into adult fleas. The pupae can remain in these cocoons for anywhere between one week and one year.

A hungry adult flea emerges from the cocoon ready to eat and reproduce.

FLEA CONTROL:

As you can see, pet owners are dealing with a hardy pest. It is estimated that the fleas an owner sees on the pet represents 1-5% of the fleas in the environment. That means that 95-99% of the fleas in a home are NOT on the pet, but in the carpeting, bedding, and upholstery.

It is important, therefore, to treat both the pet and the house.



Flea control used on a cat, a sensitive animal, needs to be safe enough for them to ingest and safe enough to put on their skin. The way a chemical effects an insect is very different than the way that same chemical will affect a complex mammal like a cat or a human.

Cats Exclusive puts safety first when considering and deciding upon topical flea control.

1. **ADVANTAGE:** the name of the active ingredient is “imidacloprid”. It is a topical parasiticide, which means it is applied to the skin or coat. Once the drops of Advantage are applied to the cats’ coat, it is distributed over the surface of the skin at the hair follicle level, and covers the entire cat aided by body movement. Imidacloprid damages a flea’s nervous system and the flea dies. Advantage kills 98-100% of existing fleas within 12 hours. Advantage is oil based.
2. **REVOLUTION:** the name of the active ingredient is “selamectin”. Revolution is topical parasiticide applied similar to Advantage. It is for use in cats eight weeks and older. It kills adult fleas and prevents flea eggs from hatching. Revolution kills at least 98% of the fleas within 36 hours. It is absorbed into the cats vascular system and circulated with the blood. It also delivers a dose of heartworm preventive, Ear mite (*O. cynotis*) treatment, and Nematode treatment (*A. tubaeforme*) and (*T. cati*). For prevention of heartworm disease, Revolution must be administered on a monthly basis, though heartworms are not common to this area. Revolution is an alcohol based prescription medication.

Treating the home environment is vital to stopping the flea cycle and to getting rid of the infestation. We currently carry two products for the home. We DO NOT advise foggers; they spray in a circle around the can and do not get into every nook and cranny. They also waste spray on the walls and the ceiling where fleas do not live.

1. **FLEA GO:** This product is a borax salt crystal. Flea Go has a “secret ingredient” that binds to the borax to create a 5-sided, heavily weighted crystal. Weight is important because we want it to fall to the very bottom of the carpet and stay there. Flea Go functions as a desiccant, that is, it dehydrates the environment making it inhospitable for tropical insects like fleas. The cat owner sprinkles the crystal into dry carpet after vacuuming. It requires approximately 2-4 weeks to kill all fleas. It should remain effective for one year as long as you don’t steam clean your carpets. It can also be applied to upholstery.
2. **Knockout E.S:** This aerosol contains the same active ingredient as a fogger or “flea bomb”, but has the advantage of being a hand spray that you can control the application. The active ingredient is pyriprpxyfen. Carpeted areas should be vacuumed before use. You will need to cover aquariums and fish bowls, and remove birds from the area prior to application. Do not apply directly to the animal. Humans and animals should not come in contact with treated surfaces until the spray has dried. It will continue working for 7 months as it contains the “Insect Growth Regulator” pyriprpxyfen, which will kill the larvae as well as adult fleas.

Please ask any of our staff if you have questions or need help locating a product.