

LePar Animal Hospital
3811 W. 95th St.
Evergreen Park, IL
60805 708-423-3200
www.leparvet.com

FLEA CONTROL

Fleas

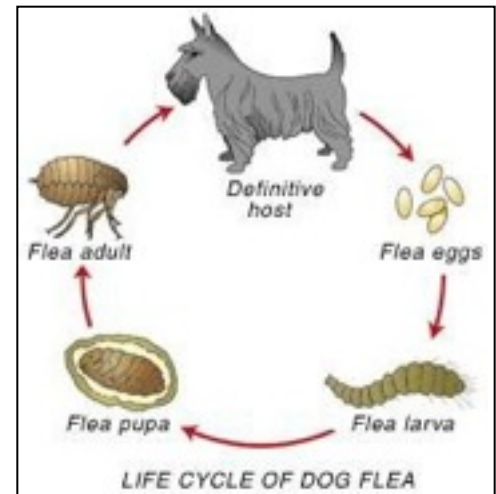
Flea prevention and treatment is very important to keeping your pet healthy and happy. One benefit of Chicago's cold weather is that fleas do not survive over the winter. The flea season is at its worst in August, September and October and we recommend using a preventative treatment from June 1st to the first hard frost or through the end of November. November continues to be one of the worst flea months in the Chicago-land area.

Flea bite hypersensitivity is the number one cause of skin disease for both dogs and cats in the United States. All dogs and cats vary in their response to flea bites. Some are very tolerant and show no signs that they are hosting parasites, while others are very sensitive to the biting little monsters. The reason: flea saliva causes irritation only in certain individuals. For pets who are allergic, some of the signs include intense itching, hair loss and ugly sores, especially around the rump and tail.

How Do I Prevent Fleas?

Sentinel is an excellent medication which prevents flea eggs from hatching. The active ingredient breaks the flea life cycle and protects your home against infestations. Sentinel is an extremely safe and can be used with any other type of flea control. We recommend that you use Sentinel for all dogs in the house for a six month period, from June to November. Sentinel is given as a monthly tablet. For most clients this is the only flea prevention we recommend. However, Sentinel does not kill adult fleas.

If one of your pets has a known sensitivity to fleas or you just don't want to risk getting any creepy crawlies on them, then use an adulticide (flea killer) as well. The easiest and most effective adulticides for dogs are Frontline or Vectra. The easiest and most effective adulticides for cats are Revolution and Frontline. These are applied once monthly. Other flea sprays and powders can be effective but need to be used at least once weekly. Flea collars are not suggested for flea control because they don't work and can be dangerous.



How Do I Know If My Pet Has Fleas?

The easiest and most accurate way to check for fleas is to look for "flea dirt" which is actually the stool of the flea's digested blood meal. To detect flea dirt, have your pet sit and place a moistened white paper towel under its rump. Next, vigorously scratch your pet right above the tail. If any flea dirt is present, the little black spots will turn red when slowly rolled across the paper towel.

AAH! Now What?

The basic principal of flea treatment is that the pet, the home, and the yard all have to be treated at the same time. If you are currently using Sentinel on all the pets in the house, then you simply need to apply an adulticide to all dogs and cats until the end of the flea season (November). If you are not using Sentinel, you'll need to start it and use it for a minimum of two months. An adulticide will be needed for this same length of time.

Treating your house is a three step project. First, all carpets and upholstered furniture should be vacuumed weekly. Then, throw away the vacuum bag as the eggs can hatch and they can crawl out. Solid surface floors should be washed with Pine-Sol. Secondly, a hand-held premise spray should be used under all furniture, in nooks and crannies, and in the closets of carpeted rooms. Throw rugs on hardwood floors should also be sprayed. The final treatment is fogging all carpeted rooms. If fogging one large room, place the fogger in the center of the room at least one foot off the floor. Adjoining rooms and hallways can be fogged by placing the canister in the doorway. Prior to starting the fogging, all people and animals should be out of the house for a period of two hours. Fish tanks can be sealed with cellophane.

For severe infestations, repeat this whole process in two weeks. For mild or moderate infestation, use the premise spray in heavy traffic areas where your pets spend the most time. Skip the remaining steps. Don't waste money on cheap foggers. Use sprays with an insecticide and a growth hormone regulator. If your pets spend a lot of time in the yard, we recommend using a growth hormone regulator sprayed around trees, bushes and shady areas.

Specific Instructions **Canine**

_____1. Use Sentinel all year round to prevent fleas from reproducing on your pet, thereby infesting your home.

_____2. Adulticide treatment: Administer _____ every _____ days for _____ months.

We recommend flea and tick prevention year round.

_____3. Apply premise spray (Knockout) as described above.
Repeat in 2 weeks for 2 months minimum.

_____4. Wash bedding in 130 degree F (hottest setting on your washing machine) water to remove flea eggs and puppa

_____5. Vacuum weekly and throw away the vacuum bag or empty the container in an outside garbage can.

Specific Instructions **Feline**

_____1. Adulticide treatment: Administer _____ every _____ days for _____ months.

We recommend revolution year round.

_____2. Apply premise spray (Knockout) as described above.
Repeat in 2 weeks for 2 months minimum.

_____3. Wash bedding in 130 degree F (hottest setting on your washing machine) water to remove flea eggs and puppa

_____4. Vacuum weekly and throw away the vacuum bag or empty the container in an outside garbage can.