



Controlling fleas on your pet

Both topical and oral flea control products are available to kill fleas on your pet and/or disrupt their life cycle. We can help you choose the right one or combination of products based on your pet's and family's needs.



Controlling fleas outdoors

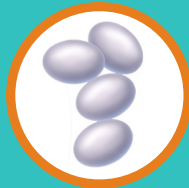
Outside your home, whether you live in the city or country, it's important to eliminate flea-friendly environments and discourage flea-carrying animals.

Here are a few steps to take:

- ✓ Flea eggs and larvae thrive in moist areas protected from the sun, so you may want to use a flea spray to treat shaded areas (under decks, under shrubs).
- ✓ Rake up leaves and debris to dry out flea hiding spots.
- ✓ Eliminate or contain garbage, pet food, compost, and other materials that attract wildlife which may be hosts for fleas, such as opossums and raccoons.

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THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE FLEA



Eggs

- 1-10 days
- Roll off everywhere



Larvae

- 5-11 days
- Feed on flea feces



Pupae

- 7-14 days
- Very difficult to kill (cocoon protects them from insecticide)
- Can live up to one year!
- Heat, vibration, humidity, CO₂ cause adults to emerge from cocoons



Adults

- 2 to 3 months
- Immediately feed
- Female lays up to 50 eggs/day; 2,000 in her lifetime

This flea guide is provided by:

*A veterinary guide
to protecting our canine
and feline patients.*



FLEAS 101

All about the flea

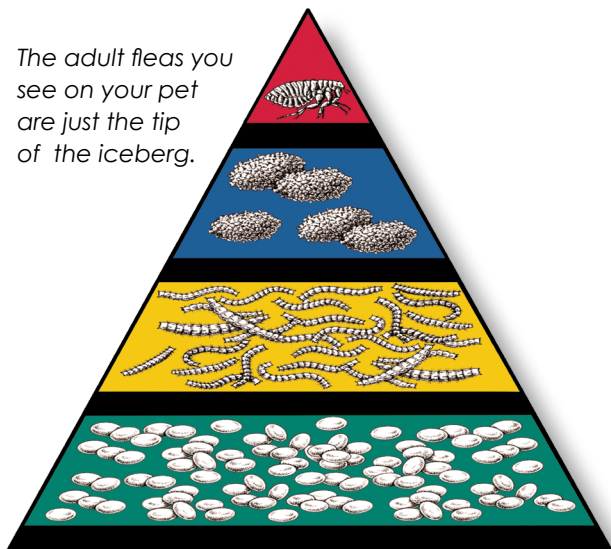
(and the threats you don't see)

The trouble with fleas is that you only see about 5% of the entire population that may dwell in your home. The rest are tiny eggs, larvae, and pupae that lurk in your carpets, pet bedding, and anywhere else your pets spend time. That's why many of today's flea treatments, known as insect growth regulators, target these immature stages of development. It's also why year-round flea control is so important.

Managing the type of flea that attacks dogs and cats (called the "cat" flea, or *Ctenocephalides felis*) requires a multi-pronged approach. No matter where you live, we and all the most respected veterinary organizations recommend year-round flea control to keep your pet healthy.

Flea Population Pyramid

The adult fleas you see on your pet are just the tip of the iceberg.



Controlling fleas indoors

Adult fleas live on your pet where they can feed on blood, but their eggs and feces, which look much like salt and pepper, drop off into any areas where your pet spends time: in carpets, bedding, and furniture. There, the eggs become larvae, which actually feed on the blood-rich flea feces. Each larva eventually forms a pupa which spins a cocoon, and then the pupa develops into an adult flea while still in the cocoon. When the adult flea senses that a host may be nearby—from vibration, carbon dioxide, or heat—it emerges and hops aboard, and the process begins all over again.



Frequent, thorough vacuuming and washing bedding in hot water can help reduce the number of fleas in your home. We can also recommend an environmental flea control product that is appropriate for indoor use.

Why one treatment is NOT enough.

Before they become adult fleas, flea larvae develop into pupae and spin a protective cocoon, which shields them from environmental flea treatments. That's why you must re-treat after 2 weeks—to ensure you kill any fleas in the pupal stage that survived the first treatment.

Did you Know?



Fleas are great jumpers, launching up to 8 inches vertically and 12 inches horizontally. So after an adult flea emerges from the cocoon, getting to your pet is just a few hops away.

