



FLEAS

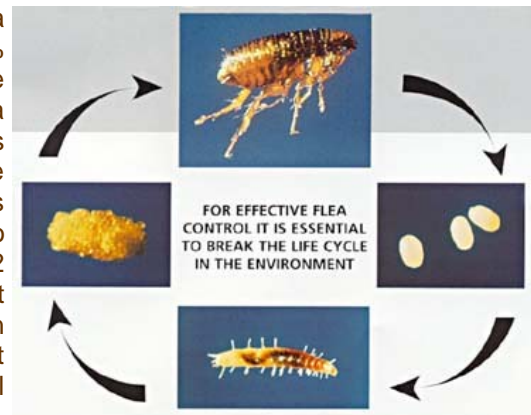
What You Need To Know About FLEAS...

How common are fleas?

Fleas are a very common problem in dogs and cats, especially during the spring and summer months. In addition to being an annoyance, flea bites can cause a condition known as "flea allergy dermatitis". The saliva from the flea acts as an allergen and causes a severe dermatitis, requiring medical therapy. Fleas also act as vectors (carriers) of tapeworms, an intestinal parasite. Flea control is best achieved by having a thorough understanding of the flea life cycle and formulating a plan to disrupt it.

Flea life cycle

The flea life cycle consists of an egg, larvae, pupa and adult stage. The first 3 stages represent 95 % of the flea's life span, found almost entirely in the pets' environment (house and yard). The adult flea comprises only 5% of its life span, however this stage is spent entirely on the pet. Adult fleas bite your pet and receive a blood meal. The female lays eggs (up to 60 eggs daily), which fall off the pet into the environment and hatch over the next 2-12 days. The hatchlings (larvae) molt during the next 10-21 days (up to 200 days) to form a cocoon (pupa). This stage may last more than one year but is usually complete within 16-21 days in ideal environmental temperatures.



Flea control...

Flea control has never been easier or more convenient than it is today. Traditional means of flea control such as foggers, sprays, shampoos and dips are ineffective in comparison with the latest, state of the art means of control.

The most effective method to eliminate and prevent a flea problem is to address all stages of the flea life cycle, which includes immature fleas in the environment and adult fleas on the pet.



SENTINEL – for Dogs

Sentinel is an easy to give, tasty, beefy-flavored oral tablet that is a very effective product in preventing a flea infestation. It is a growth inhibitor that prevents flea eggs from hatching and contaminating your pet's environment. In addition, it also protects against heartworms, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms, which makes this product complete parasite prevention in a monthly pill. For pets in a heavily infested flea environment or those with flea allergy dermatitis, your veterinarian may recommend an additional product to help in treating the infestation.

FRONTLINE PLUS – for Dogs

Frontline Plus is a topical product that provides effective and convenient treatment and control of adult fleas and ticks. It contains a growth inhibitor that prevents flea eggs from hatching and also kills adult fleas and ticks. This product should be applied monthly for those dogs who live in or frequent flea and/or tick infested environments. Dogs should not be bathed 2 days before or 2 days after application because it uses the natural oils of the skin to coat the entire body.

Flea Control Continued...

REVOLUTION– For cats

Revolution is a very effective product available to eliminate and prevent a flea infestation. It is effective because it confronts all flea life cycle stages. It has adulticidal activity, meaning it kills adult fleas within 24-48 hours. It also is a growth inhibitor that prevents flea eggs from hatching and contaminating your cats environment. An added benefit is that it also protects against heartworms, roundworms, hookworms, and ear mites in cats.

Unlike many flea products, it is not a pesticide. It is labeled as a medication to apply once a month on the back of the neck. It is a small volume of liquid so it is easy to apply. For pets in a heavily infested flea environment or those with flea allergy dermatitis, treating the pet's environment (carpet, yard) for fleas may help to eliminate the immature fleas more quickly.

Summary...

Effective flea control does not have to be a headache anymore. Your pet(s) can enjoy a life without fleas with minimal effort or expense to you. Please call Indian Hills Animal Clinics if you have any questions.

Keep these points in mind when treating for fleas...

- ◆ For every adult flea you see, there are at least 50 other fleas in various other stages (eggs, larvae, pupa) that you don't see.
- ◆ Although fleas prefer dogs & cats, they will bite humans.
- ◆ Many dogs and cats are allergic to the flea's saliva that is injected into the skin when a bite occurs.
- ◆ Many fleas carry tapeworms, which are ingested when your dog or cat grooms themselves.
- ◆ Fleas can live on your pet year round, even if your pet is outdoors during the winter.
- ◆ One female flea can produce up to 60 eggs per day and can live 3-4 months. That's over 7000 offspring!
- ◆ A severe flea infestation can cause anemia, a life threatening condition in puppies and kittens.

The most effective treatment for fleas is early prevention.

