

Windsor Animal Hospital



FLEA CONTROL

THE PROBLEM: FLEAS

- THE SIGNS:**
- 1) Excessive numbers of fleabites
 - 2) Flea allergy dermatitis
 - 3) Both #1 and #2 will cause pets to itch, bite, chew, and scratch.

*Remember * The key to flea control is treating the ENVIRONMENT in which your pets live.*

A. General Information

1. Fleas are biting insects that may infest dogs, cats, houses, and yards.
2. Fleas may be very difficult to find on an animal since they feed for only short periods of time every couple of days.
3. If one pet in a household has fleas, it may be assumed that all pets in the household have fleas.
4. Skin sensitivity to flea bites is different with each patient. One patient will only itch from an individual fleabite. Another patient, with FLEA ALLERGY will suffer with a whole body skin rash from an individual fleabite.
5. The presence of fleas is often confirmed by finding flea excrement or "flea dirt" (small black specks of digested blood).
6. It is very difficult (if not impossible) to eliminate fleas from your environment if your pets are allowed to run free.

B. Flea Allergy

1. When a flea bites your pet, it injects a small amount of saliva into the skin. Many animals become allergic to this saliva with repeated exposure.
2. In a highly allergic animal, the bite of one single flea can initiate a severe itching, scratching, and chewing response for up to 10 days!
3. FLEA ALLERGY patients that chew excessively often cause "Hot spots".

C. Treatment

1. House
 - a. "Area Treatment Sprays" are very effective.
 - Follow directions on the container.
 - Area Treatment Sprays can be used with people, animals, and plants in the house.
 - Vacuum just prior to spraying to improve permeation of the fogger into the carpet.
 - Perform a second Area Treatment Spraying two weeks after the first spraying to kill The complete life cycle of fleas. Otherwise, you will have fleas again.
 - b. Vacuum the house thoroughly several times each week for two weeks, and after each vacuuming, vacuum up 1teaspoon (maximum) flea powder.

- Whenever the vacuum bag needs emptying, empty it in an outside garbage can.
 - c. Commercial exterminators are usually very effective. Be sure to get the quarterly spraying with a "flea free guarantee". This allows for a free re-spraying if any fleas are found.
2. Yard
- a. *Windsor Animal Hospital* recommends Ortho Malathione 50% to kill fleas in the back yard, and kennel areas.
 - b. Spray the entire yard (front and back, and all ground surfaces) on the same day that the house is sprayed. For better results, mow lawns, rake up leaves, debris, and feces before spraying.
 - c. Repeat the spraying two weeks later at the same time the fogging is repeated.
3. Misc. - If your pets go into the garage, ride in the car, have dog houses, go under redwood decks or under the house, then these areas must also be premise sprayed, or yard sprayed.
4. Dog or Cat
- a. Flea shampoo only kills the fleas that are on your pet at the time of the shampoo (the lunch crowd).
 - Flea shampoo your pets (on the same day your house and yard are treated).
 - Repeat flea shampooing or dipping two weeks later.
 - Always be sure to thoroughly rinse all pets after shampooing as these products can irritate the skin.
 - To flea shampoo young pets use hypoallergenic shampoos only and comb fleas out with a flea comb.
 - b. Flea powders are usually 95% inactive ingredients hence toxicities are rare.
 - Flea powders are not commonly used or recommended.
 - c. Flea sprays are not commonly used or recommended.
 - d. Flea collars are not commonly used or recommended.
 - Use of a flea collar alone is rarely effective.
 - Change collars every seven months.
 - Watch cats for signs of toxicity: not eating, not drinking, irritated skin under collar.
 - Only use breakaway collars or elastic stretch band collars on cats!
 - e. Flea Combs can be used on a daily basis on shorthaired dogs and cats for monitoring fleas as well as removal on a one-by-one basis.
 - g. INSECT GROWTH REGULATORS

Advantage® is a flea prevention, skin application product that doesn't require the flea to bite the pet in order for it to work, giving the flea allergic pet and owner one less thing to worry about. Advantage® flea control for cats and dogs kills 98-100% of the adult fleas on the pet within 24 hours. With Advantage® new adult fleas are killed before they can lay eggs. With no eggs, there are no larvae; with no larvae, there are no pupae. "Dead fleas don't lay eggs" Advantage® is safe to use on pregnant and lactating dogs and one month-old puppies and kittens, even though it is recommended to start at 4 months of age. One dose starts working immediately and keeps on working for 2-3 weeks; but in our opinion is washed off and less effective after shampooing or repeated swimming.

Frontline® is a flea and tick prevention skin application product. It applies similarly to Advantage and works roughly the same. In our opinion it last a little longer than Advantage (approximately 3 weeks).

Comfortis® is the only FDA certified flea prevention. This is the safest and longest lasting flea prevention we have. It is a pill we give to our pets once monthly and unlike Advantage and Frontline – it last a full month.

FLEA CONTROL SUMMARY

For your pet *Windsor Animal Hospital* specifically recommends:

- 1) Treat your house with **Siphotrol®** brand foggers or Area Treatment Spray.
- 2) Spray your yard with _____ .
- 3) Spray your garage, car, yard, doghouse, dog run, or kennel with _____ .
- 4) Shampoo your pet(s) completely with _____ .
- 5) Dip your pet(s) completely with _____ .
- 6) Spray your pet(s) completely with _____ spray.
- 7) Powder your pet(s) completely with _____ powder.
- 8) Repeat the above-circled items in two (2) weeks and again every _____ months.
- 9) Powder or spray your pet(s) every _____ days during the spring, summer, and fall. This _____ is especially
- 10) Keep a Vet Kem® flea collar on your pet(s). Replace these collars every seven (7) months.
- 11) **Program®**
- 12) **Advantage®**
- 13) Hire an exterminator to spray your house and yard on a quarterly basis with a flea-free guarantee.



