



Flea and Tick Control

Keep pests away from your pet!

No cat or dog is completely safe from ticks and fleas. These parasitic bugs can be found virtually everywhere. Fortunately, many highly effective preventive treatments are available from your veterinarian, making pest control safe, easy and manageable.

What you should know:

- Even if your pet lives completely indoors, fleas and ticks can be carried inside your home by other pets, or on your clothing.
- Your veterinarian is the best source for information on prevention and control programs for your pet's situation.
- For flea and tick control to be effective, it must be administered regularly throughout the entire flea and tick season.

Be sure to eliminate fleas on all your pets, including ferrets, guinea pigs and gerbils.

Look out for opossums, raccoons, mice or other animals visiting your yard, deck and porch areas. They tend to leave fleas behind.

VCA
Pet Tip:

Questions & Answers

Why are fleas so common?

A single female flea can lay as many as 50 eggs a day and can live and breed on your pet for up to 100 days. The eggs then fall and land in carpets and upholstery, where they can lie dormant for up to 8 months.

Where are fleas and ticks most prevalent?

In warmer, more humid locations, fleas can be a problem year round. But even in cooler temperatures, fleas can be a problem indoors – well after the first frost.

Ticks tend to emerge seasonally in large numbers, so it is not uncommon for pets to be exposed to dozens or even hundreds of ticks in a single location.

How can I flea-proof my home?

Regularly vacuum carpets, furniture, floors and areas where your pet sits or sleeps. You should also wash your pet's bedding, toys and towels once a week and groom your pet regularly.



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Exceptional Pet Healthcare

Fleas and Ticks:

Potentially dangerous... but preventable



Enlarged photos of a flea (left) and a tick (right).

Risks to your pet – and you

Beyond causing discomfort, fleas and ticks can carry dangerous zoonotic (transmittable to humans) diseases.

Fleas can carry tapeworm larvae that your pet can ingest. In cats, fleas can carry an organism called *Bartonella henselae*, which is one of the causes of “cat-scratch” disease in humans. Ticks may transmit serious diseases such as Lyme disease, *ehrlichiosis* and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, to both you and your pet.

Many pets are also allergic to fleabites with a single bite causing an intense allergic reaction. When the skin is irritated or inflamed, it may also become infected, making the problem worse.

Ticks are really bothersome when present in large numbers or when they attach in sensitive places, like inside the ear or near an eye.



Offensive attack

We have many preventive tools in our arsenal to keep your pet and your family safe from fleas and ticks. They’re applied topically or in pill form on a monthly basis. Treatments are based on where you live, your pet’s daily routine and any pre-existing medical conditions.

Year-round treatment is recommended for the best effectiveness.

Fleas & Ticks - Cats vs. Dogs

- Ticks are more often found on dogs than cats.
- Dogs are more prone to flea allergies.
- Owners may miss signs of fleas in cats, mistaking discomfort for normal grooming behavior.
- Fleas typically bug dogs on the rump, thighs and stomach; cats are usually affected on the face, neck and back.
- Remember: Only use cat products on cats and dog products on dogs!

Does your pet have fleas?

Even if you’ve never seen one on your pet, he or she may still have fleas.

Watch for:

- **Scratching.** Even occasional itching can be a sign of fleas.
- **Irritated skin.** Redness or oozing can be signs of flea allergy dermatitis.
- **Visible fleas.** Check your pet’s skin and coat regularly. You may be able to spot fleas, especially on a lighter-skinned pet.
- **Tiny black dots.** Groom your pet with a flea comb. If you see little black dots on the comb, it might be flea dirt (flea poo). To make sure, clean it off with a white paper towel and add water. If the dots dissolve into tiny red or brown stains, your pet has fleas.
- **Small bites on you** – especially around the ankles. If so, you could have fleabites!