



## Flea Facts That'll Make You Itch

In warmer weather, your pets are probably itching to go outside. The problem is, they may also be itching when they come back in. If you and your pet want to be itch-free, see your veterinarian and get your pet on a flea prevention program today!

- Fleas can live in your home, in your carpeting or in your lawn — for several months without food — just waiting to jump onto their next victim.
  - Fleas can jump three feet high.
  - One female flea can lay as many as 10,000 eggs.
  - Fleas not only cause discomfort by biting, but they can transmit disease like tapeworm and one bite can cause severe allergic problems.
  - The largest recorded flea measured 12mm in length — almost 1/2-inch! Think how much blood that one sucked!
  - Fleas consume 15-times their weight in blood each day. That is like a 140-pound woman eating 8,400 burgers in one day!
- Fleas are the number one cause of allergies in cats and dogs.

## Tips for Keeping Your Pet and Home Flea-Free

The best way to fight fleas is to prevent them.

- Start with monthly flea treatment. These will help to keep your pet free of fleas and itch.
- There are several other types of flea prevention available that work in different ways. Ask your veterinary medical team for more information about these products to ensure that your pet is being treated with the most appropriate prevention.

It is important to use these flea control products throughout the entire year (follow label directions for dosing intervals). Continuous use is needed to prevent your pet from becoming re-infested, since fleas can live year-round, especially in your home. Your doctor may also recommend additional flea control measures for your home or yard.

## Cleaning your home is a part of treating for fleas

- Wash all your pet's bedding in hot soapy water.
- Clean all surfaces where your pets spend time.
- Vacuum carpets, rugs and sofa cushions thoroughly and often, including all corners and crevices.
- Dispose of the vacuum cleaner bag after each cleaning session in an outside trash can.
- Several indoor pesticides are available that can also help eliminate fleas in your home. Be sure to carefully read and follow the information on these pesticides to ensure all of your family is safe when using a chemical of any kind. Consider a pest control service for severe infestations.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the health of your pet, please contact your veterinary medical team.