

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST FLEAS DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Female fleas begin egg production within 24 to 36 hours of taking their first blood meal. Females reach peak egg production at 40 to 50 eggs per day — that's about 1,300 eggs during their first 50 days on a host. They continue to produce eggs at a gradually declining rate for more than 100 days. The entire life cycle can be completed in as little as 12 to 14 days, or it can be prolonged up to 174 days, depending on temperature and humidity.

WHAT FLEAS DO TO YOUR PET:

- They can cause severe anemia (blood loss)
- Transmit tapeworm infestation (rice grain looking worms) and other microorganisms that can cause severe illness.
- Fleas can bite humans causing allergic reactions and skin conditions

THREE VERY IMPORTANT STEPS TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE FLEA CONTROL:

1. Treat ALL animals in the household:

- This step includes cats. They can serve as a perpetual flea source among the rest of the pets. We have a variety of products available to prevent flea infestation

2. Treat your home:

- Vacuuming is the most effective way to get rid of adult fleas, eggs and larvae. Tiny larvae feed on flea dirt (adult flea excrement) and by removing their food source, we are targeting their life cycle.
- Wash the pet's bedding with water, soap and clorox.
- If you have carpeted areas use Borax powder (Walmart, Kroger laundry section). Apply powder into carpet (test first) then allow to sit for at least 4 hours. Make sure ALL pets are away from the treated area. After 4-8 hours, vacuum thoroughly. Repeat every 2 weeks for 2-3 treatments.
- Can use flea spray (HomeDepot-Lowes) on furniture or carpets as well.

3. Treat your yard:

- Regardless of how much effort you have made to keep your home and pet free of fleas if your yard is harboring a significant flea population, the problem will persist. You have wild animals, feral cats, your neighbor's pets and all of them can carry fleas.
- Fleas and larvae absolutely “hate” UV light (Sunlight). They prefer shady, dark areas, specially under decks, bushes, other plants or even under mulch. Same applies indoors.
- Spray your yard with **Complete Insect Killer (Bayer)**. Available at HomeDepot or Lowes.
- If you have a huge property, then create a “flea free perimeter” around your home.
- Spray at sunset and allow the insecticide act overnight. UV light may alter the efficacy of the product.
- As always, ensure pets are not in contact with treated areas until these areas are dry.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me

Dr. S