

# Fleas and Flea Control

No matter how clean you keep your pet, it is likely that sooner or later it will harbour fleas in its coat and bring them into your house. Fleas are no longer a seasonal problem as central heating, insulation and double glazing make modern houses the ideal places for fleas to breed all year round.

Fleas are one of the main cause of allergies in dogs and cats. When a flea bites, it injects a small amount of saliva into the bite, which many animals are allergic to. Not all animals are allergic though, which explains why some animals scratch constantly with fleas, whilst others never scratch. This means that even if an animal isn't scratching, it may still have fleas.

It is only the adult flea that bites your pet and may only be on it for a few minutes a day. The rest of the time it spends in your house, living in the carpets and furniture. Flea larvae and juvenile fleas are too small to see, and live in carpets and cracks in flooring, feeding on house dust. Adult female fleas can lay up to 200 eggs in their lifetime, meaning that the fleas you see on your pet are only a small percentage of the actual population living in the environment.

To effectively control a flea population, you must target young and adult fleas, as well as their eggs. To get rid of eggs and larvae, you need to treat the environment as well as the pet. Effective flea control involves treating all of your pets, even if they show signs of fleas or not. These must be repeated at recommended intervals. To kill adult fleas you need something effective and long lasting. Shampoos and flea collars are inefficient as they only work for a short time and only reduce the flea population slightly. We would recommend using either a spot-on treatment or a tablet form of flea treatment supplied by ourselves for effective treatment, whichever is best suited for you and your pet. The spot-on treatment consists of a vial of liquid applied to the skin on the animals neck, between the shoulder blades. This spreads out over the surface of the skin to kill fleas all over the animal.

If you decide to use the spot-on treatment, it is important that you apply it correctly, as if it is put onto the animals hair, it won't spread effectively. The fur on the neck should be parted to expose the skin, then a small amount should be applied. This should then be repeated to the side of the previous spot until the vial is empty. If your animal has thick fur, then you may end up giving several applications in different places, but they will work more effectively.



An environmental spray such as Indorex kills adult fleas for 2 months, and prevents eggs and larvae from developing into adult fleas for a year.

To treat the environment using Indorex you should:

- 🐾 Thoroughly vacuum, paying particular attention to the edges of carpet close to the wall, as these are usually the warmest areas because of heating pipes and radiators. In addition, vacuum all cracks in the floorboards.
- 🐾 Bedding used by your pet for sleeping should be meticulously cleaned (a 90 degree wash cycle is enough to kill any fleas or eggs in pet bedding), as should areas where your pet spends a lot of time.
- 🐾 After vacuuming, empty the bag or vacuum immediately to stop the fleas escaping and re-infesting the house.
- 🐾 The house should then be treated with the environmental spray. All animals and children should be moved out of the rooms being treated, especially birds and fish. Following the instructions given on the can, spray the room whilst wearing rubber gloves and proceed one room at a time, treating the whole house. Spray the areas given particular attention during vacuuming, i.e. round wall edges, radiators and sleeping areas. Test spray expensive fabrics first on a small hidden area before covering. Ensure the area is well ventilated when spraying.
- 🐾 The house should be re-sprayed at regular intervals as per instructions on the can, and then vacuum the house once again after the environmental treatment is complete.

Owners should also be aware that fleas are carriers of tapeworms, so a regular, effective worming treatment is advised in conjunction with flea treatment.

## Contact Information

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