

## **So your pet has Fleas, Now what?**

**Treat the house!!** Only 10% of a flea infestation lives on your animal, the other 90% is in your home. Fleas drop millions of eggs per day that cannot be seen with the naked eye and live within your floor boards, furniture and fabric. Start by vacuuming your house thoroughly. It's not a bad idea to buy a cheap flea collar and put it in your vacuum bag. Make sure you toss the vacuum bag when you're finished as fleas can thrive in this environment. Wash your pet bedding and any other fabric that your pet may have come into contact with. Use flea bombs that contain growth inhibitors to kill all life stages of the flea. We sell Knockout foggers and area sprays here. Follow the instructions on the can when fogging your house. We recommend using the area spray 1 week after bombing and re-bombing 3 weeks later. Don't forget to include the basement! All animals that live in the house need to be treated for fleas. Because fleas carry tapeworms, it is highly recommended that all pets in the household be dewormed 3 months after all signs of fleas are gone. Tapeworms are zoonotic, meaning they can be passed to humans!

### **CATS**

There is a wide variety of flea and tick products that can be used safely on cats. If you do not have your cat on a flea/tick prevention, there are a number of product choices you can use.

Frontline is one of the safest products on the market. Following application instructions is important as the product must contact the pet's skin, not just the fur. Also, Frontline can be used as frequently as every 3 weeks during heavy flea/tick seasons and once monthly regularly. Frontline controls fleas, larvae and eggs. It is safe for kittens 8 weeks of age or older.

Comfortis is a tablet that is made from an all-natural source. If getting a pill into your cat would not be possible, this is not an ideal product choice. It protects cats for one full month from fleas, larvae and eggs. This product can be used in cats 2 lbs or greater and 14 weeks or older. Comfortis works best when given with a full meal. Fleas begin to die within 2 hours of administration.

Advantage Multi for Cats is applied just like Frontline. Advantage Multi for Cats is a convenient, broad-spectrum heartworm preventive in a monthly topical application. It is also indicated to kill adult fleas and treat flea infestations, as well as to treat and control roundworm infections caused by *Toxocara cati*, hookworm infections caused by *Ancylostoma tubaeforme*, and ear mite infestations caused by *Otodectes cynotis*. Advantage Multi for Cats is for use on cats and kittens at least 9 weeks of age and weighing at least 2 lbs.

Revolution is another topical product applied just like Frontline. It kills adult fleas and keeps their eggs from hatching. It also prevents heartworm disease, treats and controls ear mites and roundworm and hookworm infections. Revolution can be used on kittens 8 weeks and older. Cats should be in good health if receiving this product.

Seresto collars are a great alternative to people who just plain forget to give their cat flea/tick prevention. The collar lasts for 8 months and controls fleas and ticks. The two products in the Seresto collar work to keep flea infestations at bay and repel ticks. The collar has a ratcheting action that allows outdoor cats to remain safe and a chance for the collar to stay on. The collar will break away if enough force is put against it. Fleas and ticks usually begin to die 2-4 hours after application. This product can be used on kittens 10 weeks of age or older.

## **DOGS**

Frontline is one of the safest products on the market. Following application instructions is important as the product must contact the pet's skin and not just the fur. Also, Frontline can be used as frequently as every 3 weeks during heavy flea/tick seasons and once monthly regularly. Frontline controls fleas, larvae and eggs. It is safe for puppies 8 weeks of age or older.

Comfortis is a tablet that is made from an all-natural source. Picky dogs usually don't take these too readily and other options should be considered if the dog has food allergies. It protects dogs for one full month from fleas, larvae and eggs. This product can be used in dogs 3.3 lbs or greater and 14 wks or older. Comfortis works best when given with a full meal. Fleas usually begin to die within 2 hrs of administration. This product cannot be given with ivermectin.

Advantage II is a fast topical flea control for dogs that kills fleas at all life stages. Fleas are killed within 12 hours and, to protect against further infestations, reinfesting fleas are killed within 2 hours. Advantage II kills fleas through contact, so they do not have to bite to die. One convenient waterproof application of Advantage II lasts for 1 month. Biting lice is also controlled with Advantage II. This product is not labeled for tick prevention so it should be used in conjunction with another product for ticks. A great option for that is the Seresto collar or a Preventics collar.

Preventic Tick collars contain amitraz and should not be used on cats. If the dog lives with a cat and comes into frequent contact with the cat, this may not be an appropriate choice. This product begins to kill ticks within 48 hours and lasts for about 90 days. The collar is water resistant and can be used on puppies 12 weeks or older.

Revolution is a topical product that is effective against fleas, ticks, sarcoptic mange (scabies), ear mites, and heartworm disease. It is applied monthly and can be used on puppies as young as 6 weeks old. This product is fast drying and the dog can be bathed within 2 hours of application. People with young children might like that fact.

Seresto collars may fit into a client's schedule better since it works for 8 months. The collar does not have to be removed for bathing or swimming unless the dog is getting wet more than 2 times per month. The two products work to repel ticks

and kill all life stages of fleas. In dogs, this product will kill biting lice for 30 days and will aid in the treatment of sarcoptic mange. The collar is safe for dogs 7 weeks of age and older.

Trifexis is a once-monthly tablet that kills fleas, prevents heartworm disease and treats and controls adult hookworm, roundworm and whipworm infections. And since it's beef-flavored, you can offer it as a treat. Dogs with food allergies should not get Trifexis. This product can be used in conjunction with any other flea/tick product for tick control. Trifexis works best when given with a full meal. It can be given to puppies 8 weeks and older and dogs 5lbs and greater. Vomiting is a known side effect and can be minimized if given with a meal. This product cannot be given with ivermectin.

K9 Advantix II is a once-a-month topical application for dogs and puppies that REPELS and kills ticks, fleas, and mosquitoes. K9 Advantix II contains imidacloprid, permethrin and pyriproxyfen that work in concert to REPEL and kill parasites that can potentially transmit disease-causing organisms. K9 Advantix II is for use on dogs only and may not be appropriate in households with cats. It can be used on puppies 7 weeks or older.