

3 KEYS TO FLEA CONTROL



*Campus
Times*

Does your kitty have flea issues? Fleas are the most common external parasite to plague our pets. They are wingless insects that feed on blood, can jump up to two feet high and make a very comfortable home in your pet's fur. Here's a few tips in nipping your flea issues in the bud.

1. **Know the Dangers:** While some cats live with fleas and show minimal signs of infestation, control is highly recommended. The cat flea carries the larval stage of the tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum*. Cats can be infested with these worms by eating fleas during grooming. Fleas have the potential to transmit other infectious agents. Adult fleas feed on cats' blood, and in young kittens, this can cause anemia. Anemic kittens are

weak. Some cats develop an allergy to flea saliva, which causes them to scratch excessively or to develop skin disease. Cat fleas can cause itchy bites on sensitive humans.

2. **Clear out the Environment:** Regular preventive treatment ensures that your cat does not have fleas and keeps you and your pet happy. Frequent vacuuming can help to reduce, but not eliminate, environmental infestation. Vacuum bags should be disposed of to prevent collected immature flea stages from continuing to develop in the house. Although it maybe time-consuming, all soft furnishings should be treated. All nooks and crannies should be included, such as gaps between floorboards and moldings. Treatment of the whole house is essential. Anything that is

heavily infested, such as pet bedding, should be treated with a flea control product, laundered in hot water, or simply thrown out.

3. **Consider Long term flea control:** Once the adult fleas have been removed from all the animals in the house and the environment, prevention of re-infestation is essential. Flea control products come in many forms: Collars, shampoos, sprays, foams, powders, pills and monthly topical. Some are over-the-counter, while others can be obtained with a prescription. Although it should be noted that many over the counter products appear to be less effective now. Let *Campus Veterinary Clinic* help you and your itchy cat live a flea-free and healthy lifestyle!

How to Safely Remove Ticks From Dogs

Dogs pick up ticks from the environment and less frequently from other animals. Ticks tend to be attracted to dogs by warmth, physical contact and odors, among other things. Depending on where you live and what you do (more outdoorsy activities can lead to more exposure to potentially harmful parasites), ticks can become a common nuisance. Don't be intimidated if you find a blood-sucker on your pup. Here's a step-by-step method for safely removing a tick from your pet.

1. Sterilize a pair of blunt tweezers. This is best done with rubbing alcohol. Then, using the tweezers, grab the tick by the head or mouth. Do not try grabbing the whole body.

2. Try not to twist the tick as you are pulling it off. Pull firmly and steadily. Hold the tick tightly but do not crush it. Crushing it will leave the tick's head embedded in the flesh. This can result in complications. Do not use alcohol or petroleum jelly to entice the tick to back out. Besides not doing the trick, these things may cause the tick to put more disease-carrying saliva into the wound.

3. Once you've removed it, place the tick in alcohol to kill it. Clean the wound and apply a small amount of triple antibiotic ointment. Wash your hands thoroughly after the mission is accomplished.

4. Go over the dog's body with a comb to be sure there aren't more freeloaders. Check inside the ears and near the anus very carefully as hidden ticks are more dangerous. Remember, ticks carry disease. To prevent transmitting disease, do not press into the tick. Sometimes after a tick has been removed a welt may appear on the skin of your dog. It may take a week or longer for this to heal.



Deer ticks are very small. They often carry Lyme disease. If you suspect a tick to be a deer tick, put it in a plastic storage bag. Be sure that it is sealed completely. Label the bag with your pet's name, the area that the tick was attached to the dog and the date. Call *Campus Veterinary Clinic* to have the tick checked. Tick-related illnesses can take a while to show up, so if you find a tick of any kind on your pet, write down the date of the bite. Ticks are difficult to kill, so be sure you remove the head and body to prevent your pup from getting an infection.

Prevention: Ticks also seek safety in hidden locations within homes. Repairing any crevices or gaps and keeping grass cut short outside may discourage infestations. The disposal of all empty bird and rodent nesting materials is also necessary, as ticks will readily infest these conditions. Consider taking preventative measures like medicated collars, topical ointments and oral, once-a-month medications. These can be highly effective and will allow you and your pet to enjoy the great outdoors worry-free!



*We offer a wide variety
of flea and tick prevention.*



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See if you can find
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Anemia

Dipylidium Caninum

Foams

Parasites

Triple Antibiotic

Collar

Flea

Infest

Shampoo

Tweezers

Deer Tick

Flea Saliva

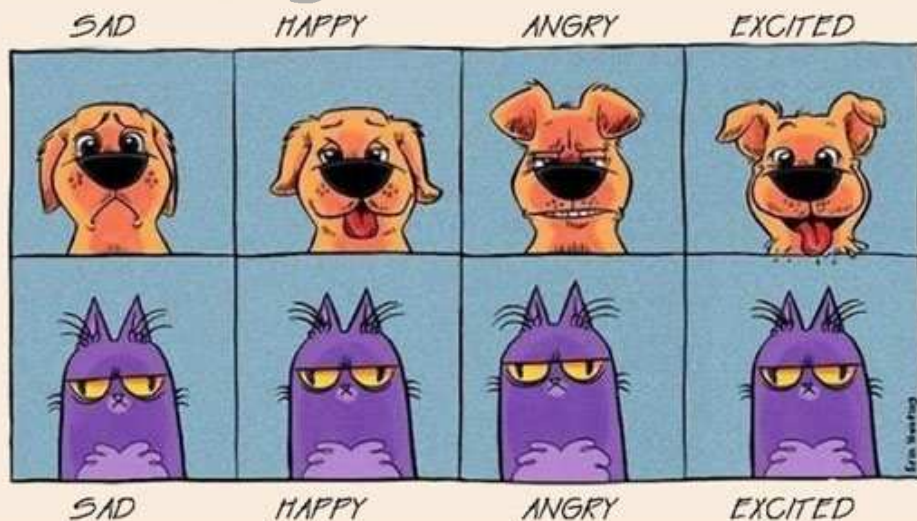
Lyme Disease

Ticks

Worms

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