



Information Sheet

Fleas

Flea infestation is a very common problem in both dogs and cats. In order to understand the different methods of treatment of fleas and their advantages and disadvantages it is important to know something about the flea's life cycle.

Fleas on your dog or cat are the adult stage of the flea's life cycle - they feed on your dog or cat by sucking blood, so the 'flea dirt' they leave in your animal's coat are digested blood. The adult flea only lives on your animal for a short while but during this time lays hundreds of eggs which drop off your animal and into the environment, in other words your carpet or elsewhere in your house.

These eggs hatch into larvae which feed in your carpet or wherever they are, not on the animal, and this stage develops into a pupa. The pupa contains the adult flea within a thin case this is stable for some months but when the pupa receives the right stimulus -usually warmth and vibration, it will hatch within a second and jump onto the animal walking by.

Due to the larval and pupal stages flea treatment must be used continuously to prevent any build up of flea infestation in your house.

Treatment

Treatment can take several different forms:-

1 – Flea tablets/Spot ons

- These kill adult fleas to prevent egg laying and distress to your pet
- They can be monthly or 3 monthly

Bravecto

- Fleas/ticks for 12 weeks
- -Dogs – Tablet or spot on
- -Cats - spot on

Stronghold

- Spot on treatment for cats
- -Flea/Tick /Roundworm treatment
- -Monthly application

Advocate

- Spot on treatment for dogs
- -Flea, roundworm and lungworm treatment for dogs
- -monthly application

2 – Environmental treatment

- It is very important to treat your house every 6-12 months
- This is to kill eggs or larvae that may be present
- We recommend Indorex house spray or RIP house spray, both are available from our shop or practice reception

3 – Insect growth regulator (IGR)

- Program Injection for cats is an IGR
- It stops fleas from growing/breeding and so prevents a build-up of eggs and larvae in your home
- It will NOT stop live fleas so should only be used on veterinary advice