
FLEA INFESTATION

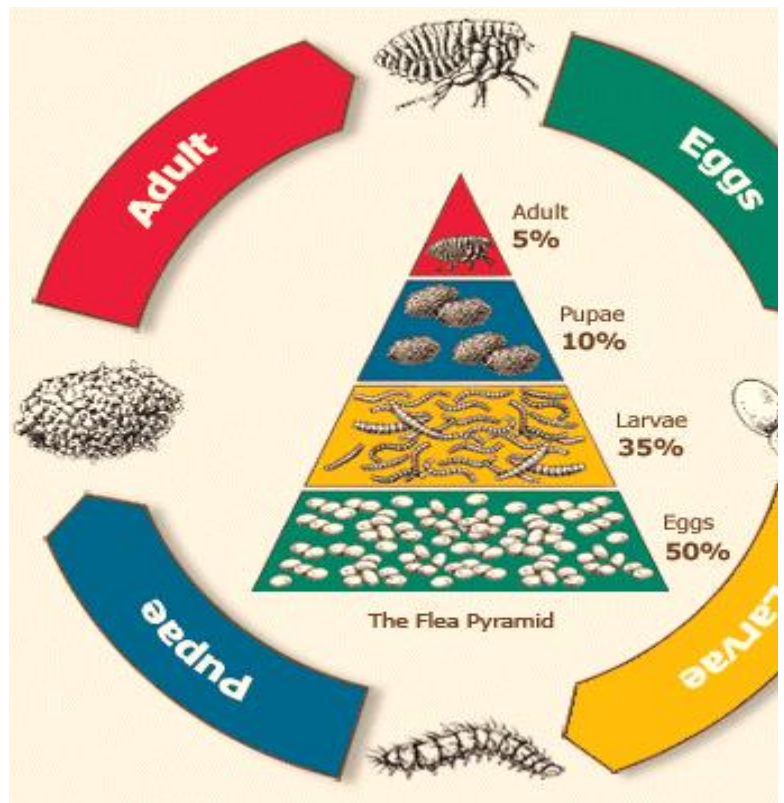
HAVE YOU GOT FLEAS AT YOUR HOUSE?



PETS MAKE WONDERFUL HOSTS FOR FLEAS

O.M.G Is that a flea?

If your pet has fleas, there's a real chance you have fleas living in your home and or yard. Or, you may discover a problem with fleas because previous owners of your property had



The life cycle of a flea is anywhere from 12 days to 8 months.

Not sure if you
have a flea

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dogs or cats. Unfortunately, fleas can also infest homes that haven't had pets. Once you have them they're more than capable of making your life or your pet's a living hell.



Constant scratching irritates the skin of your pet and your pet can develop a Flea Allergy Dermatitis or if fleas are left untreated Flea Bite Anemia. Fleas also transmit tapeworms.

circus?

Finding adult fleas may be harder than you think. Fleas are dark reddish brown in colour and are very small – under 13mm on average – about the size of a grain of rice. They have six long legs and no wings but can jump very high and far, about 200 times their body length. Signs of fleas include red or black specks on your pet's skin and through its fur indicating flea faeces (also known as flea dirt), or small particles in the pet bedding that resemble salt and pepper. You may even notice the fleas themselves, hopping around on your pet, your pet's bedding or your carpet in your home.

If your dog or cat is continually scratching, biting or licking themselves excessively that may be a sign they have fleas, so check their skin, especially around their neck or near the base of their tail. If they have invaded your home, they can hide within fibres of rugs and carpeting. You may not notice them at first but they move quickly and will hop, jump or crawl eventually ending up on you. Humans tend to be bitten around the feet, ankles and lower legs. Flea bites look like small red dots which often occur in clusters of two to three bites or in patterns, and have redness around them, sometimes with a light 'halo'. They cause itching, sometimes hives or a rash and even swelling around the bite.

WHY GETTING RID OF FLEAS IS A PAIN

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The four distinct stages of flea maturity make removing fleas from your home almost impossible without a professional pesticide treatment.

The life cycle of a flea begins when the adult female lays the eggs on the host. The eggs are white and about the size of a grain of sand. These eggs are scattered throughout the pet's environment as the animal moves about.

The eggs hatch quickly in hot and humid environments but will also hatch in cold and dry environments, just more slowly.

Larvae hatch from eggs and commence feeding on the blood left by the adult fleas. They are almost transparent but do not have legs at this stage. Just like the flea eggs, if the conditions are right the larvae will spin cocoons in a week or less than a month.

The pupae (cocoon) stage sees the larvae wrapped in a water-tight cocoon for protection as it waits to emerge as an adult flea. The cocoon has a sticky coating that allows it to stick to your carpet, which makes it difficult for you to remove with a vacuum. The movement of you or your pet signals for the adult flea to hatch from the cocoon.



Cat Flea: are 3mm long, wingless ticks, flattened from side to side with long legs enabling them to jump. A cat flea cannot complete its life cycle feeding only on human blood.



Dog Flea: is 1 – 4mm long and is brownish black in colour, but appear reddish-black after a blood meal.

New fleas can emerge unharmed from the cocoon even if the environment has been treated.

Once the flea emerges it begins feeding and not long after, mating and laying eggs.



Why Flea Prevention is Key

Fleas are stubborn parasites that cause discomfort and can take weeks or months to control. That is why preventing them from starting in the first place really is the best course of action.

5 steps to flea free...

As a first line of defense keep your grass mowed and shrubs trimmed back so fleas have less places to hide.

Discourage feral pets and wildlife from entering your yard. They can carry fleas – feral cats are the worst offenders. Don't leave unfinished pet food outside.

Prevent wild animals or your pets from crawling into spaces that are difficult to treat i.e. under decks.

Treat your pet(s) with a spot-on flea treatment. If your pet has long hair, consider shaving your pet for the warmer months making it easier to spot problems. Wash your pet's bedding, crate and toys in hot water weekly to kill flea eggs and larvae.

Make fleas less welcome by vacuuming at least once a week

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Fleas multiply quickly; one female can lay up to 50 eggs per day, equal to her body weight.

and more often if you see fleas. Pay particular attention to carpeted areas or throw rugs where the flea eggs, larvae and pupae often live. Vacuum all areas including low traffic areas, under furniture, under cushions and in areas where your pet sleeps or spends time. Change vacuum bags frequently, or place a flea collar in the bag to kill emerging fleas. Steam clean the carpet to remove additional fleas and larvae.

If you are moving into a new home, a good rule of thumb is to treat your home and yard for fleas first before introducing your pet.

Flea eggs are smaller than a grain of sand. They are so small you probably will not see them.

Time to call in the professionals!

It may seem less expensive to attempt to rid your home of fleas yourself rather than hiring a professional. However, the disadvantage with treating your home yourself is often the over-the-counter products available generally are not as effective as those used by professional pest technicians, often requiring several treatments and taking longer to get the problem under control. Depending on the extent of the infestation it could be cheaper and quicker to hire a professional than to treat the infestation yourself.

CPR Pest Management Services employ pest technicians who are trained to deal with flea infestations.

They use the correct product(s) safely to eliminate the fleas. DIY products can be dangerous to you and your family if used incorrectly. Our pest technicians are very thorough and they will work with you to devise a safe and effective plan to eradicate your fleas so they do not return.

Once your treatment has been completed do not avoid the flea infested areas, doing so actually reduces the effectiveness of the treatment. Don't forget to include walking around in areas where your pet (if you have one) likes to rest, such as the spare room or shed. This action will stimulate flea activity, resulting in the fleas contacting with the residual treatment and dying.

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What to expect after your flea service...

Be patient. Sometimes flea treatments appear to be ineffective as small black fleas are seen after the treatment. This is because the pupae are quite resistant to chemicals. Even if everything has been done correctly, you will still see newly hatched fleas, usually for several weeks.

