

Fleas & Flea Larvae



What do they look like and where do they live?

- They are small, wingless insects, approximately one-eighth of an inch, with back legs that are modified for jumping
- The majority of the fleas' life cycle occurs off the animal
- Adult fleas feed on blood
- Eggs are laid on the animal but fall into the environment, for instance pets' bedding or in the carpet
- Only 5% of flea population is on the animal – i.e. 95% in the environment

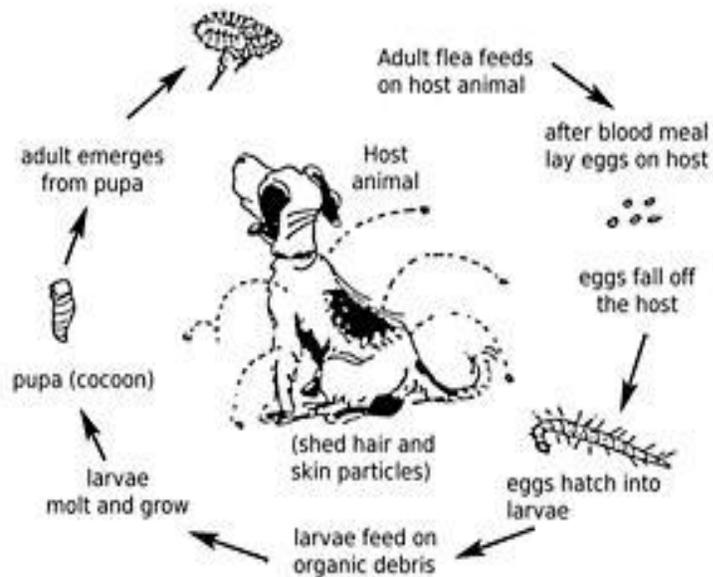
How can my pet contract Fleas?

- Fleas can pass from one infected animal to another
- In heavy burdens, you may need to treat environmental stages, or fleas will continue to emerge and be seen to land on pets; this emergence of fleas can occur for several months
- When treating the environment it is important to treat all areas that the pet goes. This may include the car

How will this parasite affect my pet?

- Fleas will bite cats, dogs and rabbits
- Fleas can cause Flea Bite Dermatitis by irritating the skin of the animal
- Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD) is caused by an allergy to flea saliva
- A very heavy infestation particularly in small animals i.e. kittens and puppies can lead to anaemia
- Fleas can also be responsible for the transmission of viral and bacterial disease

Flea Life Cycle



Can this parasite affect my health?

- Fleas will bite people as well as cats, dogs and rabbits

Here are some pointers to prevent fleas moving into your house!

- Regularly clean pets bedding
- Seal and discard vacuum bags or clean your Hoover
- Treat the whole house with a veterinary recommended spray as directed
- Remember, warm temperatures of spring and summer and the warmth of central heating in autumn and winter can activate fleas to begin hatching, biting and laying eggs by the thousands so flea prevention should continue year round
- **Use a veterinary recommended product monthly to kill and prevent fleas on your pets. Combined products are also available to kill and prevent ticks.**

*****If you have any queries or are in need of your monthly flea treatment, call the surgery or pop in today! *****