

Fleas - Not Just Your Dog's Problem

Living right up against nature is one of the joys we here in Lake Co. get to experience. The lake itself, the blooming redbud and scotch brush, and all the little critters we share this place with. The problem is, the little critters share back.

You may keep your yard in pristine condition, but I guarantee you, when you're not looking, in the stealth of the night, there is some little wild creature enjoying that yard more than you do. Little wild animals have fleas (and ticks and chiggers) and while they're frolicking on your newly mowed lawn they are jumping ship for new adventures. Next morning here comes your precious Fluffy out to do his business or accompany you on your gardening chores. Those fleas have not eaten in a while and Fluffy looks mighty tasty. So, on they go. You and Fluffy go into the house, the fleas hop off and now your home has the potential for a flea infestation. Fleas only spend about 15% of their time actually being on an animal. They hop on, take a nice little blood meal, maybe lay a few eggs and then hop off for a little snooze. What to do?

The old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure rings true here. Some tips to follow are: keep your yard clear of clippings and leaf piles -the humidity and condensation that accumulate there is a haven for fleas. You can use a yard treatment- Diatomaceous earth works well and is safe for you, your pets and the wildlife that visits you plus there are chemical treatments, but you must be very careful about what you can and can't use around pets. Treat proactively- it's easier to not get an infestation than to stop one once it's taken hold, no one treatment of anything will get rid of fleas in your home or on your pet once it's started. Please call us if you have questions or are unsure.

"I want to be organic." Great! There are some things you can use that will help, but there are things that have been used through the years, that while they may work to a degree can be potentially hazardous. Again, diatomaceous earth is great for the outdoors and can be used indoors as well. Baking soda- Sprinkle it on your carpet, Leave it on for an hour or so and then vacuum it up (Fleas do not have lungs but instead breathe through their exoskeleton, they inhale the baking soda and, well... blow up) the thing to remember is to EMPTY THE VACUUM BAG EVERY SINGLE TIME (heat and vibration cause flea eggs to hatch, so if you leave that used bag in the vacuum you're just creating a little flea dormitory). Plant marigolds- The bad bugs hate them and the good bugs love them. And one to beware of: Pennyroyal has been used in gardens for insect abatement for centuries. While it may help some, it can also overwhelm the respiratory systems of some, especially small, animals.

Treating Your Pet for Fleas - There are many safe and effective flea treatments available at our office. Not everything works equally on every animal. Next time you and Fluffy are in for an examination, talk to your veterinarian or call anytime to discuss your situation with one of our experienced team members. We'll find you the best, most appropriate treatment for you and your pet. Counterfeit, Pirated and Diverted Flea Treatments: No manufacturer of the flea treatments we carry sells directly to any online pharmacy. Reputable flea product manufacturers go to great lengths to be sure the product you get is the real deal and that it is safe for your pet. Most of them do "batch tags"

these days so they can know if something labeled as theirs truly is and how it got somewhere it wasn't intended to go. Why that is important to you: Most flea treatments come with guarantees. That's right. Use these products in the manner described by the manufacturer and if you still have a flea problem after ninety days they will pay for an exterminator to come to your home (note: you must have purchased your flea treatment from an authorized dealer. Someone like us - Clearlake Veterinary Clinic, if you purchased it from one of those big name online pet pharmacies odds are the guarantee will be negated.)

Still like the ease of shopping online and having the product delivered to you? You can order online from our pharmacy, get fast home delivery AND retain all the warranties/guarantees afforded you had you come to the office. In office we carry Frontline Gold and Nexgard. If there is another product you prefer it is likely available at our online pharmacy (link on our homepage of our website).

Here are some Websites to visit to help you decided:

Frontline Gold. [http://www.frontline.com/gold/Pages/default.aspx?
utm_source=Bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=&utm_content=Frontline%20Gold_Brand
%20Pure_BMM&utm_campaign=Bing_Frontline%20Gold_Brand%20Pure](http://www.frontline.com/gold/Pages/default.aspx?utm_source=Bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=&utm_content=Frontline%20Gold_Brand%20Pure_BMM&utm_campaign=Bing_Frontline%20Gold_Brand%20Pure)

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