



Tips on getting rid of FLEAS!



Treat your pet

We're Infested! If the infestation on your pet is very bad or your pet has a flea bite allergy, you may want to consider giving him/her an instant kill product like Capstar. Capstar will kill more than 90% of adult fleas within 4 hours on dogs and 6 hours on cats. Put your pet in the tub and use a flea comb to comb your pet's fur to help remove as many of the fleas as possible. Bathe your pet thoroughly to get rid of any live fleas you may have missed and to rid your pet's skin and fur of flea dirt.

I've seen a few. If you've just noticed a few fleas and are looking to stop the pests before they become a problem, bathing your pet with its regular shampoo should take care of the few fleas on the animal. You should use a flea comb as well to maximize the cleaning process. If you decide to use a "flea" shampoo, keep in mind that there is no residual effect after they are rinsed off. They will only kill the fleas that are on the animal at the time you use the shampoo.

***Be sure to treat ALL the pets in your home, not just the one(s) you have seen fleas on.**

Don't stop here!

Treat your home and yard

We're Infested! Consider calling an exterminator to help treat your home. If this is not an option for you, you'll want to purchase either a fogger or premise spray to use inside your home and a yard spray for outside. Be sure to follow all instructions on the container for appropriate use and best results.

I've seen a few. Even if you've only seen a few fleas, you have to consider the life cycle and remember that the fleas you have seen have already laid their eggs. The recommendation would be to use a premise spray on the areas of your home that your pet frequents most, any carpeted areas of your home, and possibly your furniture as well.

Keep going!

Clean your home

Whether you're infested or you've only seen a few, you'll want to do a thorough cleaning of your home. Wash all of the pet's bedding for a long cycle in hot water. This includes anything that the pet likes to lie or sleep on, which may or may not always be intended to serve as pet bedding. Wash it all - the bedsheets, the throw on the sofa and the bathroom rug. Also consider laundering any fabric toys. If the toy can't be washed, it may be best to throw it out.

- If the item is not salvageable or the inside of the pet bedding is full of dirt (dander, flea eggs, flea larvae, and flea excrement) it's best to throw it out. Even if you wash the cover and put the inside of the bedding back in the cover, the eggs will still hatch.

- Fleas attack humans, too. You're going to need to wash your sheets and upholstery as well. Anything that you regularly touch is a vector for fleas. Wash it thoroughly.
- While the loose, potentially flea-infested items are being washed, arm yourself with a vacuum. While you're vacuuming, send your pet outside, or confine them to one un-carpeted room, so that any fleas they're carrying won't jump onto the surface you just cleaned.
- Focus on areas that don't get much exposure to sunlight (fleas like humid and cool spots), anywhere that you find flea dirt (flea feces which consists of blood and will turn red when exposed to water), upholstered furniture, and crevices around baseboards and cabinets. Don't just concentrate on carpeted areas since they may be hiding in other places as well. If you see flea dirt, there are fleas!
- You'll want to vacuum daily, if not multiple times a day, and seal the contents of the vacuum in a plastic bag and put it outside each time. Otherwise, the little buggers can crawl out and make themselves cozy again.

You're almost done!

Prevention is key!

Even cold temperatures outside don't protect your pet and home from fleas. Truth is, your home's warmth could increase the likelihood of harboring fleas indoors and on your pet. That's why it's important to treat your pet each month to prevent future flea infestations. If you've shampooed your pet, you'll want to **wait about 48 hours before applying any topical preventative**. If you've chosen an oral medication or a collar, there's no need to wait before using them.

A large portion of a flea problem is not the adult fleas that you see on your pet. Adult fleas actually live in the environment and normally are only on your pet for a meal. This is why following ALL the steps of treatment are important. Only treating your pet is only treating a small percentage of the problem.

Just because you don't see the fleas doesn't mean they aren't there. Keep your eyes open for all the things discussed above and treat ASAP to stop the cycle!

