



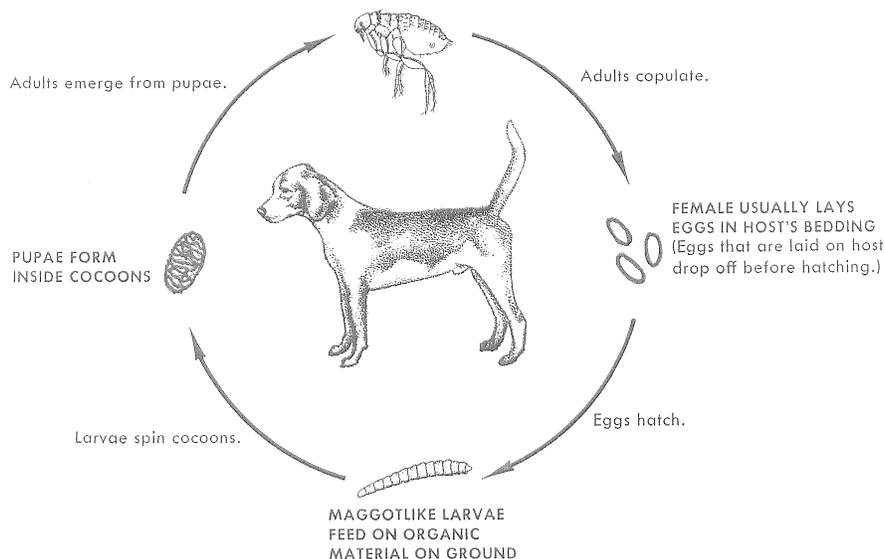
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## Flea Infestation and Control

Although you are only able to see the adult flea, there are actually four stages of the life cycle. The adult flea constitutes only about 5% of the entire flea population if you consider all four stages of the life cycle. Fleas lay their eggs on the pet, but the eggs do not stick to the pet's hair. Instead, they fall off into the environment. The eggs make up 50% of the flea population. They hatch into larvae in 1 to 10 days, depending on temperature and humidity. High humidity and temperature favor more rapid hatching. Following complete development, the mature larvae produce a silk-like cocoon in which the next step of development, the pupa, resides. In warm, humid conditions, pupae become adult fleas in 5-10 days. However, the adults do not emerge from the cocoon unless stimulated by physical pressure, carbon dioxide, or heat. Pre-emerged adult fleas can survive up to 140 days within the cocoon. During this time, they are resistant to insecticides applied to their environment. Because of this, adult fleas may continue to emerge into the environment for up to three weeks following insecticide application.

When the adult flea emerges from its cocoon, it immediately seeks a host because it must have a blood meal to survive. It is attracted to people and pets by body heat, movement, and exhaled carbon dioxide. It also seeks light, which means that it migrates to the surface of substrates so that it can encounter a passing host. Following the first blood meal, female fleas begin egg production within 36 to 48 hours. Egg production can continue for as long as 100 days, which means that a single flea can produce thousands of eggs. Their entire life cycle (adult flea  $\Rightarrow$  egg  $\Rightarrow$  larva  $\Rightarrow$  pupa  $\Rightarrow$  adult) can be completed in 14-21 days with the proper temperature and humidity conditions. This adds to the problem of flea control.



- ❖ Flea collars, even the ultrasonic type, do not provide effective flea control.
- ❖ Fleas suck blood from pets and can cause anemia, transmit disease & tapeworms as well as causing hair loss and itchiness.
- ❖ Treatment of flea-related skin problems will make your pet more comfortable, but can only provide temporary relief until the flea problem is under control.
- ❖ Dietary additives such as Vitamin B, brewer's yeast, or garlic have been proven **not** to work for controlling fleas.
- ❖ There is no effective flea vaccination.
- ❖ Some animals are very sensitive to insecticides. Signs of poisoning include salivation, muscle tremors, small pupil size, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. If any of these signs occur, rinse off any topical insecticides and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ❖ The Florida flea is a hardy creature, and sometimes the problem seems overwhelming. There are no one-shot magical cures.

**The only solution is a diligent flea control program incorporating effective treatment of your pet and premises.**

### Suggested Treatment Plan

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12	WEEK 13	WEEK 14	WEEK 15
HOUSE	X		X		X				X	<i>As Directed</i>					
YARD	X		X		X			X							
PET	X			X			X								

Treatment of the yard, house and pet must be carried out simultaneously for effective flea control. Strict adherence to the entire program is needed for success.

#### TREATMENT FOR YOUR PET(S)

**FLEA COMBS:** Fine tooth comb for removal of fleas and flea dirt.

**CAPSTAR** a fast-acting tablet given when seeing evidence of fleas. Starts working within 30 minutes. Only lasts for 24 hours. Used for both dogs and cats.

**NEXGARD (Prescription Only)** a once a month chewable tablet given to prevent fleas on **dogs**.

**BRAVECTO (Prescription Only)** a convenient chewable tablet given **every 3 months** for fleas & ticks on dogs.

**REVOLUTION (Prescription Only)** A once a month topical treatment for preventing heartworms, and treatment of fleas and ticks. Used for both dogs and cats. **\*Specifically recommended for dogs with food allergies\***

**CHERISTIN (Cats only)** a fast acting, low volume topical once a month flea prevention.

**SHAMPOOS:** Can be used as much as once per week: **SENSICARE SHAMPOO** (should be used with artificial tears ointment).

### TREATMENT FOR YOUR HOUSE

Thoroughly vacuum floors, carpets & furniture and empty vacuum cleaner bags. Protect fish & birds. Remove pets from house; many owners bring pets in for bathing while treating the house.

**MYCODEX ENVIRONMENTAL:** Aerosol spray that kills adults and larvae for up to 4 months.

**FLEASTOPPERS:** Kills adults and larvae, guaranteed for 1 year. NOT an insecticide.

### TREATMENT FOR YOUR YARD

Clean litter and debris, cut grass and trim shrubs. Keep pet out of yard for several hours after treating or until dry.

**VIRBAC YARDSPRAY:** A garden hose adapter that treats 6000 sq. ft. For use on Residential Lawns and around Residential Premises.

## Typical Flea Population

