

The Do's and Don'ts of Flea Control

Treatment Do's:

- Do vacuum regularly. When you are seeing fleas on a pet, they account for only 5% of the infestation. For each flea you see on an animal there will be many more eggs, larvae and pupae hidden in the pet's environment, such as:

- cracks in floor boards
- deep in the carpet pile
- in the family sofa
- in the pet's bedding
- around the garden

- Do put a flea collar from the supermarket in the vacuum bag for extra killing power (not on your pet!) You can also use an insect surface spray after vacuuming to kill any fleas around.

- Do wash all your pet's bedding in boiling water (no detergent required) and/or hang them in the hot sun to kill the egg and larvae stages.

- Do treat all pets in the household—not just the 'itchy' one. If you have a cat that wanders around but your dogs are getting the flea treatment, you can bet the cat will still be bringing in fleas. All pet's require treatment, or you will not resolve the flea problem.

- Do use a product that kills quickly and breaks the flea lifecycle. We stock several products that are quick and effective against fleas, and above all SAFE. You will likely need to use several months of treatment if the environmental flea burden is heavy.

Treatment Don'ts:

- Don't wash your pets with flea washes or shampoos. They only make an itchy pet even itchier and don't have any residual effect. Put simply, once your pet is dry after shampooing, they can pick fleas up once more within 24 hours.

- Don't bother using flea bombs. As mentioned previously, fleas like to live in hidden places, which the bombs have difficulty reaching. They may kill the odd one or two, but not enough to be worth the toxins and trouble.

- Don't use 'spot on' products that only kill adult fleas. Adult fleas are less than 5% of the problem. If you elect to purchase elsewhere, check the packaging carefully, or call to ask for advice before purchasing. We are happy to help.

- Don't use flea powders. Much the same as flea shampoos, powders have little residual effect.

- Don't use 'permethrin' or 'pyrethrum' flea products — ESPECIALLY with cats. These chemicals are HIGHLY TOXIC even at low doses. Even treating your dog with one of these products can lead to cross contamination and be lethal to your cat. If you are unsure, call to ask for advice first. Again, we are happy to help.

- Don't believe that if you can't see them, you don't have fleas. These last 3 years have seen exceptional numbers of fleas causing problems all year round—which is very unusual. This year promises to be just as bad. Prevention is always better than cure, treat now!

