

## EXTERNAL PARASITES AND THEIR TREATMENT

Client Information Series

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External parasites such as fleas and ticks can present a wide range of problems for dogs and cats as well as you.

Fleas are the most common external parasite that our animals face. Fleas like the warm, dark environment of your pets' skin. Dogs normally come into contact with fleas from being outdoors while cats that live indoors only come into contact with fleas from other animals in the household that go outside. Dogs can come into contact with fleas from the outside environment or wild animals that have fleas. Animals with fleas can have mild to severe itching, scratching, hair loss, and biting or chewing. Some animals have a hypersensitivity to the fleas' saliva and can cause further problems. Fleas can also transmit tapeworms. To determine if your pet has fleas comb your pet with a fine toothed comb between the shoulders or at the base of the tail. Place any material from the comb onto a damp piece of paper towel. If you notice any black debris that have rust colored circles around them fleas are present. To treat for fleas either give an oral product such as Nexgard® or apply a topical product such as Frontline® or Revolution® to all of the animals in the household once every two weeks for two months and then once monthly afterwards. Vacuuming any areas where your' pet routinely stay and throw the vacuum bag away, as well as washing any bedding that your pets sleep on will help to reduce the fleas in the environment. To prevent fleas we recommend either giving an oral product such as Nexgard® or applying a topical product such as Frontline® or Revolution® monthly.

Ticks are another common problem especially for dogs. Ticks are normally found in wooded areas. Ticks can transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichia. The easiest way to determine if your pets have ticks on them it to examine the animal. In longer haired animals it is very important to part the hair so that you can see down to the skin. To remove a tick grasp the body of the tick with a tweezers and pull it out then watch that area for signs of irritation. We recommend testing for the tick transmitted diseases at least one month after removing the tick. This can be done with a simple blood test that is run in the clinic. To prevent ticks we recommend a topical product such as Frontline® applied monthly.

If your dog shows a sensitivity to the topical flea and tick products the makers of Frontline® have an oral flea and tick product Nexgard® available now.

External parasites such as fleas and ticks are a common problem of our pets but are easily prevented.

*"Caring for your pets...as if they were our own"*