

## Environmental Treatment

Flea infestations invariably arise from eggs hatched in the animal's home environment. Removal of the flea eggs and larvae is very important step in dealing with an outbreak. Thorough and frequent vacuuming is necessary, but to augment this, we recommend the use of a longacting household spray.

The household spray which we recommend has a shortlived action against adult fleas, but it prevents development of eggs and larvae by a hormone effect for 12 months and one can will treat a 3 bedroom house.

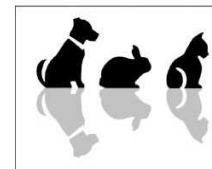
It should be used on all the soft furnishings that the pets come into contact with (carpets, cushions or curtains etc). Following the directions carefully, and be sure not to apply too sparingly. They are very safe products, when used in accordance with the instructions, even when young children are around.

If you use a spoton treatment that prevents infestation of your home, you will only need to spray the house rarely, just as long as regular spoton treatments are administered to your pets.

Always change the animal's bedding after administering a flea treatment!

### What to do if you have a problem:

1. Treat the house with household spray and vacuum.
2. Treat all dogs and cats with recommended spoton treatments.
3. If the itch is severe, or there are scabs or sores, take your pet to the vet for treatment.
4. If your particular pet has a flea allergy, you may wish to talk to your veterinary surgeon about a more specific preventative medication.



**RAINSBROOK  
VETERINARY  
GROUP**

**Flea Control**



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## Fleas...

..are a very common parasite among our dogs and cats; in fact most that go outdoors get fleas from time to time, often without their owners ever noticing. The fleas that infest our cats and dogs **DO NOT** infest humans as well, although some people can receive very itchy bites.

The adult flea spends all its life on the host animal, rarely venturing off. Eggs (upto 400 from each female) are laid in the coat, but the majority fall off into the carpets, bedding etc. where the pet lies. The eggs and larvae can remain dormant in houses for over a year if no suitable animals are available to feed from.

There a variety of symptoms of flea infestation:

- Tiny black specks of flea dirt in the coat, especially around the rump
- Small spots and scabs on the skin, especially on the rump, but also elsewhere on the trunk
- Larger areas of 'eczema', scabs & infection
- In summer, 'wet eczema', 'hot-spots' etc are often caused by fleas.
- Scratching can be mild, or there may be intense irritation.

Fleas can also spread disease from one animal to another, and can spread tapeworms (for more information see the worming leaflet).

## Treatment

Fortunately, we have effective remedies available to deal with the problem of fleas. However, it is important to remember that prevention is better than a cure.

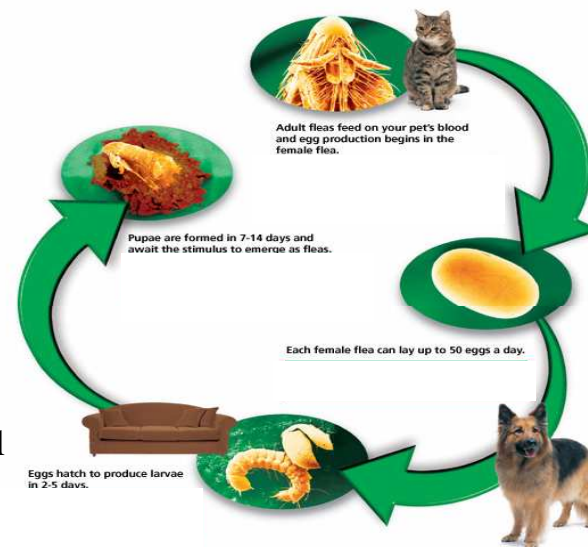
## Spot-On Preparations

As a practice, we recommend spot-on preparations for flea treatments. Spot-on treatments are concentrated insecticides applied as a small dose to the skin at the back of the neck. Spot-on treatments can also have the added benefit of preventing flea infestation of the home.

The spot-on preparations which are available through us are Prescription Only Medicines, so the pet to be treated must be registered at one of our practices and have been seen by a veterinary surgeon or a nurse within the last 12 months.

There are also other spot-on treatments that have a broader range of activity. These spot-on treatments are prescribed by the veterinary surgeon for a variety of purposes including the following:

- Flea treatment and prevention
- Treatment of ear mite infestations
- Treatment of sarcoptic mange and demodex infestations
- Heartworm prevention.
- Roundworm, hookworm and whipworm treatment.



## Sprays

Our practice also has in stock a flea and tick treatment spray that is particularly useful if you own multiple cats and dogs, or if you have young animals. Your veterinary surgeon will always recommended the best course of treatment for your pets.

Our veterinary staff are fully trained, and will ensure that you take home the appropriate flea treatment for use on your pets

