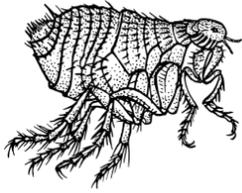


# FLEA

# INFESTATIONS & FLEA ALLERGY DERMATITIS (FAD)



## FLEA LIFE CYCLE

To best treat fleas, we must first understand their lifecycle. The adults are the only part of the life cycle that lives on your cat and dog. These adults lay eggs, which then fall to the ground (in the house, on the furniture/bed, outside in the yard, etc). The eggs hatch into larvae, which scurry away to warm dark places (under the furniture, behind TV, etc). The larvae turn into pupae, which finally emerge as adult fleas. The adults only make up 5% of the total flea population with the remaining 95% of the population being in your house and yard. It can take anywhere from 2-3 months for a flea to complete its lifecycle. Fleas will infest all pets in the household as soon as one day whether you see them or not.

## FLEA ALLERGY DERMATITIS (FAD)

As the name implies, FAD is an allergy triggered in response to the flea's saliva. Not all pets are allergic to fleas, however. Signs associated with FAD are extreme itchiness, hair loss, pinpoint scabby lesions (miliary dermatitis), scratch marks and skin infections. The most severely affected areas are typically the lower back. Clearing the flea infestation will resolve the skin allergies (unless your pet has a concurrent food or environmental allergy).

## TREATING THE PROBLEM

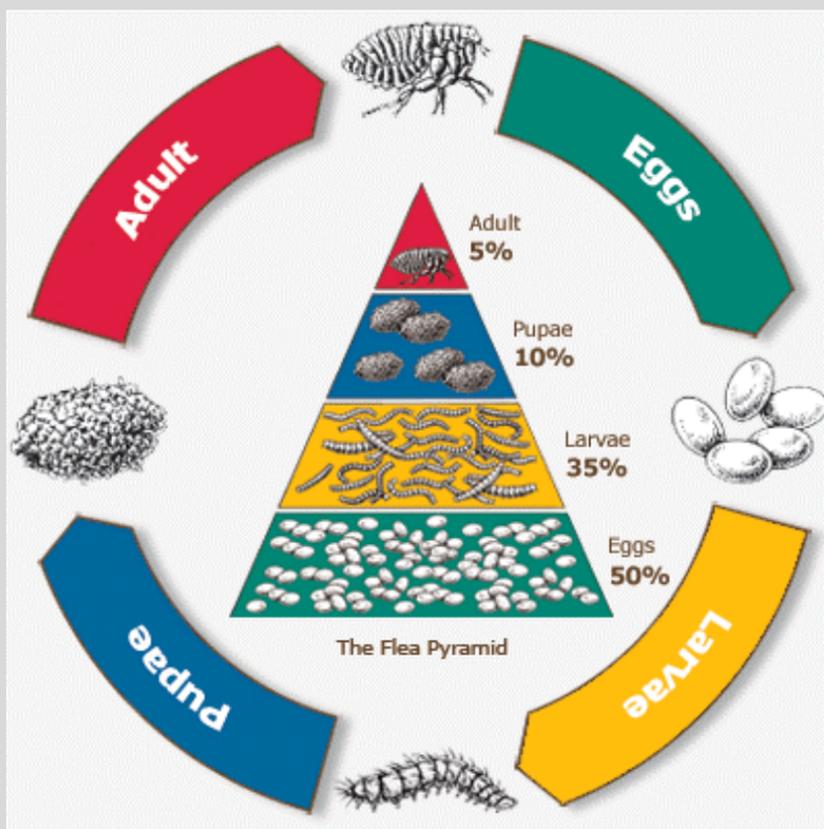
The TRIAD of flea treatment is the quickest, most effective way to get rid of the flea problem: **ADULTICIDE** (VECTRA or BRAVECTO or REVOLUTION) + **ORAL OVACIDE** (SENTINEL SPECTRUM) + **HOUSE TREATMENT** (VET-KEM or EXTERMINATOR).

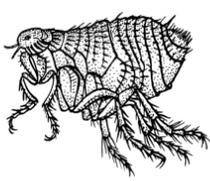
Unfortunately, there is nothing available that will kill the flea in the pupae stage. This highlights the need for continued monthly flea prevention to kill the fleas as they hatch from the pupae and then jump on your pet.

Topical flea medication. Topical flea medications (ie Vectra, Revolution, Feline Bravecto, etc.) are the most common forms of treatment and have proven very effective in flea treatment and prevention. These medications should be applied once a month, although Feline Bravecto will last for 2 months. They are an adulticide and work by killing the adult fleas as they come in contact with the product or take a blood meal. These medications must be applied directly to the skin. It is very important to part the fur to apply it properly. Do not give a bath to your pet two days before or after you apply the medication. If your pet is a frequent swimmer, talk to your veterinarian about an oral flea medication. Another alternative is to apply the topical medication every 2-3 weeks. All in contact pets must be treated, including indoor only cats, rabbits, ferrets, etc. We recommend using Vectra for dogs and Revolution or Feline Bravecto for cats.

Oral flea medication. Bravecto is a newer oral flea medication that kills the adult fleas, but is only for DOGS. It provides excellent protection against fleas and ticks. The wonderful thing about this product is it lasts for THREE months. Side effects are minimal and primarily include GI upset. IDEAL FOR: those dogs that hate the feel topical flea prevention, owners who don't like the smell of topical flea prevention, those who forget to give the pill monthly, those who have concerns about children coming in contact with topical flea prevention.

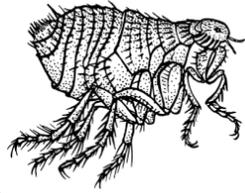
Treating flea eggs. Sentinel Spectrum is an ovacidal medications that prevent the eggs from hatching. Combining this medication with a topical or oral flea product provides the best results in flea control.





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## TREATING THE PROBLEM CONT.

Other flea adulticides. Capstar is another oral pill that works great to kill the adult fleas. It starts working within 30 minutes, but only lasts for 24 hours. Capstar is great to use while you are waiting for the other flea medications to take effect.

Products NOT recommended:

We do not feel that Hartz, Seargents, Biospot, etc, are effective means of flea control. They can have severe, life-threatening side effects in cats as well.

Flea collars and flea dips are NOT effective means of flea control or flea prevention. They do not provide any extended treatment.

Treatment for pets too young for flea preventatives. For puppies and kittens < 6 weeks of age it is safest and most effective to use Dawn dish soap or something similar. You should make the switch to topical or oral preventatives at the earliest time. Stop the Dawn baths when topicals are applied because this soap will strip off the medication.

Treating the house. Treating the house is very important in controlling the problem. Target the areas where the fleas live like under the furniture, cushions and bedding. Vacuuming and sweeping the floors on a daily basis really helps to remove the eggs, larvae and pupae. Be sure to empty to vacuum contents outside, because the fleas will continue to hatch and grow in the vacuum. Don't forget to launder your bed sheets (if they sleep with you), the pet's bed, towels, etc.

The house still needs treated with some kind of insecticide though. We recommend using a veterinarian approved spray, such as Siphotrol or Vet-Kem, because it is easier to direct the spray in the areas of infestation. 'Foggers' and 'bombs' may not be effective because they shoot their contents in the air, not necessarily getting under the areas where the fleas will be. You may also hire exterminators to help with the problem.

Other medications. Depending on how itchy your pet is, steroids or allergy medications (such as Apoquel) may be prescribed to help them feel more comfortable. Antibiotics may be needed for secondary skin infections.



## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1). You must treat every pet in the household.
- 2). Be sure to apply the topical medication directly to the skin.
- 3). Please be aware that you will not get rid of the flea problem in just one month. It can take several months to completely be rid of the flea infestation.
- 4). The TRIAD of flea treatment (adulticide, ovide and house treatments) provides the quickest, most effective way to get rid of the fleas.
- 5). Continue the flea prevention all-year-round to prevent future flea infestations and outbreaks of flea allergies.