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Fleas

Fleas are biting insects that live off the blood of dogs/cats and other mammals. Being an insect, their life cycle is similar to that of the butterfly: egg-pupae-larvae-adult. The life cycle takes 60 days or longer to complete. If no mammals are present, the eggs can remain dormant for 1-2 years before hatching. If mammals are present the eggs usually hatch quickly.

Fleas are annoying because their bite creates itching. Some animals are allergic to flea saliva and become extremely itchy with very few numbers of fleas. Flea allergies are treated by killing the fleas and giving anti-allergy medications.

Flea treatment:

Mobile Veterinary Care recommends Frontline Plus applied topically to the skin every 30 days for three months. For continued flea prevention Frontline Plus can then be continued every 60 days thereafter. Frontline Plus must remain on the animal for at least 3 months or re-infestation of fleas may occur. This happens if the flea eggs present at the time of the first application do not hatch for 60 days or more. Also, all animals in the environment must be treated at the same time or the flea population can persist.

A premise spray can be used to spray your household. This helps knock down the numbers of fleas in the environment quickly so that your pet receives fewer flea bites immediately. Spray all carpeted areas. Fleas like to lay their eggs in the carpet, not on slick surfaces. Be sure to spray under couches, coffee tables, beds, etc. Wash any bedding that your pets may lay on. Spray couch cushions, etc (be sure to test spot in an inconspicuous area).

Natural Ways to Control Fleas

Vacuuming is the most effective natural treatment. Vacuuming picks up 95% or more of the fleas in the carpet. Vacuum daily, changing the vacuum bag frequently because the fleas will persist inside the bag.

Wash everything that is washable.

Feeding brewers yeast or Vitamin B supplements may help repel fleas. 1/2 tsp. brewers yeast daily for a cat up to 1/4 cup daily for a large dog.

Bathe your pet daily to remove adult fleas and eggs.

Natural flea spray: Boil four cut lemons for 15 minutes, drain water, cool, then spray or work this into your pets fur. Dry with a towel.