

Fleas!!

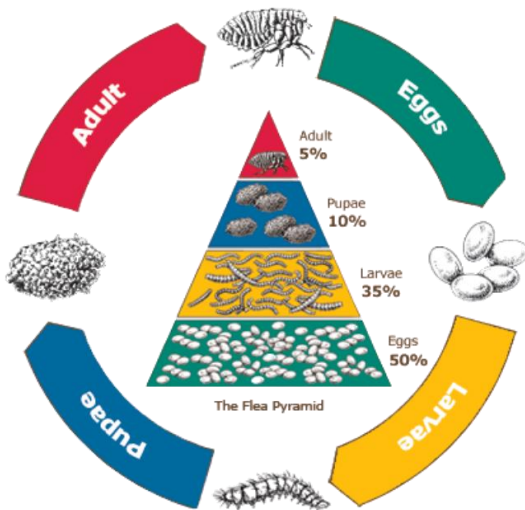
Flea season is here again!! With the warmer weather upon us, we will start to see those fleas emerging from their hibernation in the environment. Below, you will find a few key facts for optimal flea protection.

Flea Facts:

- 1 female flea can lay over 50 eggs per day.
- 1 flea can bite a pet hundreds of times a day.
- Fleas can jump up to 12 inches!
- It takes 90 days to break the 4-stage life cycle.



Flea Life Cycle



Adult Fleas:

- ONLY 5% of the flea population
- Live 30 – 90 days with a host (your pet!).
- Can survive for up to 2 weeks without a host.

Flea Eggs:

- Make up 50% of the entire flea population!
- Hatch within 2 – 14 days.
- Extremely small and hard to see – approx. the size of a single grain of sand.

Flea Larvae:

- 35% of the population
- Burrows into carpets, bedding, and floor cracks.
- Rarely seen due to their size and location.
- Will create cocoon within 5 – 20 days to develop into the Pupae.

Flea Pupae:

- 10% of the flea population.
- Highly resistant to insecticides and temperature changes.
- Can stay dormant in this stage for months, up to 1 year, before the adult flea emerges.

Flea Sources:

- Unprotected “outside pets.”
- Stray dogs and feral cats
- Wildlife – birds, rabbits, mice, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes, etc.
- Humans can transport fleas from an infested environment on their clothing and shoes.

What is “Flea Dirt”?

- “Flea Dirt” is a common term used to describe the waste material (poop) of fleas.
- Resembles black pepper specks or coffee grounds.
- Primarily seen at the base of the tail and neck – but can be found anywhere on the pet.

Treating / Preventing Fleas:

- If you are seeing adult fleas and/or flea dirt on your pet – your pet has regular contact with a healthy flea population.
- Monthly prevention on ALL animals in the house and on the property.
- It is important to treat the environment due to the considerable number of eggs, larvae, & pupae found there.
- Wash bedding with hot water and bleach.
- Vacuum regularly – disposing of debris immediately! Full vacuum bags/containers are an ideal environment for the flea life cycle to thrive!