

# Treating Fleas

Pine City Animal Hospital

917 Main St S

Pine City, MN 55063

320-629-7591

Dr. Gene Webster DVM      Dr. Shayla Mihelich DVM

Don't be too embarrassed to ask questions. You are not the first to have a pet with fleas and you won't be the last but hopefully this can be *your last time* to deal with them!

**Persistence, prevention and consistency are key!**

When treating for fleas, make sure that you do the following:

- 1.) Treat the indoor environment.
- 2.) Treat the outdoor environment.
- 3.) Treat the pet.
- 4.) Continue on a preventative for all pets to avoid future infestations.

1.) Treating the indoor environment:

- Vacuum thoroughly and often!
  - Vacuum high traffic areas, your pet's favorite spots, their bedding, under furniture and even your closets DAILY!
  - After every time, seal the vacuum bag in a plastic garbage bag tight and discard it immediately.
- Use an area treatment spray with an insect growth regulator (IGR) and/or a fogger.
  - We carry Knockout products in the clinic.
  - Each **Knockout Area Treatment Spray** covers 2100 ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Each Knockout Fogger covers *an open room 27' x 27' x 8'*
  - FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL:  
Be sure that no one is in the home when using the foggers and area treatments. This includes people and all pets (dogs, cats, rodents, birds, reptiles etc.). Cover any fish tanks, kitchen appliances, dishes, utensils and kitchen surfaces. Put any food or beverages away. You should leave immediately after using these products, open the windows and wait at least two hours until the area has aired out before entering.
- Wash your pet's bedding often. Use hot water/dry with high heat.
- Wash your clothing and bedding often as well and don't leave piles of clothing out to collect fleas. Use hot water/dry with high heat.
- Don't forget to clean other important areas such as pet carriers, vehicles, sheds/garages, etc.

2.) Treating the outdoor environment:

- Use an outdoor spray to treat your yard and any kennels outside.
  - Keep your pets off any treated area for a few hours.
- Fleas enjoy dark, moist, warm areas.
  - Treat under decks and patios and also rake out any piles of leaves, straw and grass clippings before treating.

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## 3.) Treating your pet:

- Make sure that you treat ALL of your pets and any others that they are in contact with.
- Use flea combs.
  - Brush through your pets hair, remove the fleas and place them into a sealable bottle or container with rubbing alcohol or water & detergent.
- **Use topical or oral flea protection products.**
  - We advise *against using flea collars*, as their efficacy is not very high.
  - Use the products properly according to their directions and don't miss a dose!
  - Do NOT use products meant for dogs on cats. This could harm your cat.
  - Make sure that you are treating your pet with the correct amount of product. Know their weights and don't "split doses" between pets.
  - Fleas have 4 life stages and their life cycle is 3 months, therefore, a *minimum of 3 months* of consistent treatment is needed. When treating your pet, you may see a flea. This does not necessarily mean that the product isn't working. They are likely to be newly matured fleas.
  - **Keep at it! Getting rid of fleas takes time and effort!**

## 3.) Keep your pet on reliable flea prevention! The best offense is a good defense!

- There is a chance that some fleas may be left behind in a cocooned stage that cannot be treated and may hatch months later.

### **Our #1 recommendation:**

#### **Dogs:**

***Bravecto – oral treatment that lasts up to 12 weeks.***

***Or***

***Vectra 3D – monthly topical treatment – use 3 months in a row!***

#### **Cats:**

***Bravecto – topical treatment that lasts up to 12 weeks.***

\*\*When purchasing products, keep in mind that we are able to offer many rebates and coupons for them in our clinic or our online pharmacy that you will *not* find at another online pharmacy or at a retail store.\*\*