



ANIMAL CLINIC EAST

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Flea Control Information Sheet

Step 1: Kill the adult fleas on all your Pets

- ❖ **All pets** must be treated with an appropriate flea treatment. Read the application instructions and follow them carefully.
- ❖ **Types of products:**
 - 1. Topical spot on treatment: examples include Revolution®, Frontline®, Advantage® (Dogs & Cats), or Advantix® (Dogs Only). Apply every 30 days for flea control. Reduce swimming and bathing frequency to maintain effectiveness.
 - 2. Bravecto® which is an oral tablet that controls fleas and ticks for 3 months. Dogs Only
 - 3. Sentinel® tablets for dogs is a monthly oral tablet that controls fleas, heart worms, roundworms, and whipworms.

Step 2: Remove Flea eggs and pre-emerged adult fleas from inside the house

- ❖ Daily vacuuming is the most effective way to reduce immature flea populations in the house. Vacuuming can remove 40- 80% of flea eggs and up to 90% of pre-emerged fleas. Focus on areas near and under beds, furniture and skirting boards. Make sure to dispose of all vacuumed debris in the outside trash to avoid re-contamination of your home.

Step 3: Prevent access to high risk outdoor areas

- ❖ Some areas outdoors (where pets prefer to sleep) will harbor large numbers of pre-emerged fleas – fence off or block access to these areas
- ❖ Walk dogs on footpaths only; avoiding garden beds, fields, etc.

Step 4: Prevent exposure to fleas from other animals

- ❖ Visiting cats and dogs (and some wildlife) carry flea eggs onto your property – stop these visits.
- ❖ When your pet is visiting homes with pets (and where fleas are present), administer a Capstar tablet to your pet/s before returning home. This will immediately kill any “hitchhiker” fleas before they contaminate your property with flea eggs. Capstar only lasts for 24 hours so it is not an effective long term flea control product.

Step 5: Treat the environment

- ❖ You can apply Pool Salt to any area under the house to reduce eggs and larvae viability –just make sure it does not wash onto your garden
- ❖ Outdoor areas and garden beds can be sprayed with a Lawn Grub Insecticide which will also kill flea eggs and larvae
- ❖ Garden beds should be tidied to remove organic waste and debris that could harbor flea larvae.

Why does my pet still have fleas?

- ❖ Be aware that all the flea adulticide products are contact insecticides – the fleas have to be on the pet for some time to pick up enough chemical to be killed.
- ❖ Only adult fleas are found on the pet and cannot survive off the pet once they have fed. The egg, larvae and cocoon are found in the pet’s environment (bedding, carpets, etc). Each female flea produces on average 30 -50 eggs a day, which fall from the pet and infect the environment. The eggs hatch into larvae, and then develop into a cocoon. They can stay within the cocoon for up to 6 months before emerging as an adult flea. The cocoon stage is the source of all your problems and unfortunately pre-emerged fleas in cocoons are extremely difficult to kill. In effect today’s fleas were last month’s flea eggs. Within 24hrs of landing on the pet, the fleas have fed and the egg production cycle starts again. Washing bedding and frequent vacuuming may help to reduce the number of cocoons in the environment.