

FLEA/TICK FAST FACTS



Why is it critical to protect your pets from fleas and ticks?

Fleas and ticks are not just a nuisance, but pose animal and human health risks. Fleas can cause your pet to scratch and chew their skin, potentially leading to hair loss and skin allergies. Fleas can also transmit other parasites, such as tapeworm to your pet. Ticks suck your pet's blood, they suck human blood, and can transmit diseases such as Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

The Flea

Fleas feed on the blood of their host - humans, birds, reptiles and domestic animals. The female flea can lay 2000 eggs in her lifetime. A flea can live more than 100 days without a blood meal.

The Tick

Ticks feed on the blood of their host - humans, birds, reptiles and wild and domestic mammals. The brown dog tick and the American dog tick are the most common carriers of disease among dogs.

Lyme Disease

Warning signs of Lyme Disease may not appear until several months after infection. People can also be infected by the same ticks that infect our dogs. In severe cases, Lyme Disease can be fatal.

Prevention

The best offense against fleas and ticks is to prevent an infestation.

- **Be Tidy** - Regularly wash pet bedding and vacuum carpets paying particular attention to areas your pet frequents.
- **Limit Access** - Wildlife, including opossums, coyotes, raccoons, and skunks, and even untreated cats and dogs can deposit flea eggs into a yard. It may be possible to reduce flea infestations by limiting the access these animals have around your house and yard.
- **Treat Monthly** - Even one missed dose of your monthly flea and tick control can set the stage for a flea infestation that takes months to resolve, or put your pet at greater risk of exposure to a tick borne disease.

