

**Prince Frederick Animal Hospital  
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## **FLEA CONTROL MADE EASY**

Pet flea control is vital, because fleas left uncontrolled will infest your house. Flea control requires multiple steps, and each step needs to be done simultaneously, in order to halt flea infestation. As costly and time consuming these steps are, when done properly you can avoid an even costlier professional exterminator.

### **STEP 1: TREAT THE INDOOR ENVIRONMENT**

Vacuum and sweep all exposed surfaces of your house, including flooring, carpet and furniture. Dispose of the vacuum bag and sweepings OUTDOORS in a sealed plastic bag.

Treat the indoor environment with an indoor house spray or powder. Do not use flea bombs, which do not penetrate exposed surfaces. The best product has an "insect growth regulator," which kills fleas, flea eggs and flea larva for up to 4 months. Test the product on fabric and carpets first to make sure it does not discolor. All people and animals should be out of the house for 2 hours after the treatment. Make sure all exposed surfaces (flooring, carpet and furniture) get sprayed.

#### **Suggested products:**

Siphotrol house spray: lasts 4 months, treats 2000 sq. ft.

Flea Buster Powder: natural product, but only works immediately and does not have a lasting effect.

### **STEP 2: TREAT THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT**

All animals may pick up fleas as soon as they step outside. Bushes, grass and leaf piles will harbor fleas, even in cold weather. Purchase a product that is labeled for outdoor use and labeled to kill fleas. The easiest formulation will attach to a garden hose, and the yard can be sprayed down. Spray the backyard first, and keep animals and people out of the backyard for 24 hours. The next day, spray the front yard, and again keep animals and people out of the front yard for 24 hours. Do not spray the yard within 24 hours of rainfall.

### **STEP 3: TREAT THE ANIMAL WITH A KNOCKDOWN**

All animals with fur will need to be treated at the same time. A "knockdown" is a product that kills fleas immediately. These products usually kill fleas immediately but have no lasting, continued effect.

#### **Suggested products:**

Capstar: Labeled for dogs and cats. A pill that kills fleas on the animal within 15-30 minutes.

Ovitrol towlettes: labeled for ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and gerbils.

Adams flea and tick powder: good for young animals and rabbits.

Synerkyl spray: good for young animals.

### **STEP 4: TREAT THE ANIMAL WITH MAINTENANCE FLEA CONTROL**

All animals with fur that go outdoors will subsequently need a topical flea control once a month, as long as the outdoor temperature is above 55 degrees F. These products will kill fleas within 24 hours and are effective for 30 days. Proper application is critical for these products to work. The product needs to be applied to skin (not hair), so part the hair to see skin. Apply the product at the neck area, so the animal cannot reach around to lick it off. Do not let the animal get wet for 2 days before or 2 days after application (so no swimming, bathing or out in the rain). These products are not repellents, so you may still see fleas on your animal. Be assured that the fleas will die within 24 hours.

#### **Suggested products:**

Frontline topspot: Labeled for dogs and cats. Kills fleas/flea eggs/flea larva/ticks.

Frontline spray: an alternative to the liquid packets, especially if you have many animals or your animals like to swim (will not wash off).

Advantage: Similar to Frontline topspot but does not kill ticks.

Revolution: Labeled for cats. Kills fleas/heartworms/ear mites/scabies.

#### **Other flea products available:**

Program: Labeled for dogs and cats. Works as a birth control for fleas, but the fleas need to bite the pet for the product to work. Does not kill ticks.

Sentinel: A combination of Program and Interceptor (a monthly heartworm preventative).