

Why Can't I Get Rid of These Fleas?!

Fleas are not just on your pet; they are in your home as well. Once you see the flea, an infestation has already been established in the environment. An average adult female can lay up to 50 eggs a day. Flea eggs are not "sticky"; they roll off wherever your pet goes. This means your pet is like a "salt shaker" that leaves eggs anywhere in your home and yard. The eggs can be tracked around further as people walk around.

This is why you need to treat your home as well as your pet.

When these eggs hatch, the larvae seek a nice dark area to hide and grow and eventually form their pupae (cocoons). A nice dark area would be under your furniture, in the cushions, in the closets, etc.

This is why we would recommend a "premise spray" verses a "bomb". Flea bombs spray up in the air and the product settles down on top of the furniture etc. Fleas (larvae/pupae) are not on top, they are under!

No product has been proven to "kill" a pupa. The flea is safe in its cocoon until it emerges (hatches). Pupae can emerge in three to five days, or they can remain in the cocoon for over a year. Some circumstance which can effect when the flea will emerge, are warmth, carbon dioxide, and high humidity. Many people believe that their flea control program is failing; when in fact, they just do not understand the nature of the flea pupae.

Use a premise spray that binds to the fabric fibers (carpet/furniture). When the pupae "decide" to emerge/hatch, they come in contact with the product and are killed.

Treating your home:

1. Collect all washable items (pet bedding, throw rugs, clothing from the floor, etc.); take care not to shake these as the flea eggs will become airborne (transporting to the laundry room in a garbage bag is suggested). Use hot water or the manufacture's recommendations for fabric. When throw rugs and pet bedding are dry, they can be sprayed with a premise spray and allowed to dry for 3 hours.
2. Vacuum your home; all rooms, even the basement (pupae can remain dormant in the cool basement for a long time). Also vacuum your car, all furniture, beds, closets, and all the "nooks and crannies" of your home. Throw out the vacuum bag or clean out the vacuum canister immediately (outdoors) as fleas will just crawl back out.
3. Wash other floor surfaces (hard wood, linoleum, etc.) as manufacture's recommendations.
4. Treat your home with a premise spray; allow 3 hours for the spray to dry before walking or sitting. Re-apply the premise spray in about 4-6 weeks to the high traffic areas.

Treating your pet(s):

1. Use the recommended topical or oral product once a month for 3-4 months minimum. Avoid missing a dose. Do not allow pets that are using the topical products to swim or have a bath 48 hours before and 48 hours after application. All topical products must be applied to a pet that is dry. Remove any collar, harness, bandanna, etc. before topical application for 24 hours as it may absorb the product.
2. Please let your groomers know what product(s) you are using so they do not apply something that can counteract your flea product or overdose your pet!

Remember, Consistency is Key!

Products carried by Cole Veterinary Hospital to treat and prevent fleas:

- **Capstar:** Pill, For Cat & Dogs 4 weeks & older, Kills fleas (within 30 minutes). Lasts 24 hours (1 day)
- **Frontline Gold:** Topical, For Dogs & Cats 8 weeks & older, Kills fleas, larvae, eggs, ticks, and chewing lice. Lasts 30 days.
- **Nexgard:** Chewable, For Dogs only, 8 weeks and older, Kills fleas and ticks. Lasts 30 days.
- **Bravecto:** Chewable For Dogs 6 months and older. Kills fleas & ticks. Lasts 3 months (12 weeks).
- **Bravecto Cat:** Topical, for Cats 6 months and older, Kills fleas and ticks. Lasts 3 months (12 weeks).
- **Trifexis:** Pill, For Dogs Only, over 5# & 8 weeks & older, Kills fleas, prevents heartworm disease, treats and controls round, hook, & whip worms. Lasts 30 days.
- **Revolution:** Topical, For Dogs 6 weeks & older, Cats 8 weeks & older, Kills fleas, eggs, ticks (in dogs only), treats & controls sarcoptic mange and ear mites, prevents heartworm disease, & controls round &, hook worms (in cats only). Lasts 30 days.
- **Knockout Premise Spray:** One can covers 2,100 square feet. It binds to fabric fibers and stays in the environment for up to 7 months.

**We understand it is a battle.
Do keep a consistent attack in action, and please call us
with any questions!**

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