

## Why you need to protect your pet from fleas

- Fleas are very common in dogs and cats, and since the arrival of central heating are capable of breeding all year round.
- Fleas are not just irritating. They can cause serious health problems for your pet as well as biting you and your family. They can lead to skin damage, eczema and ‘self trauma’.
- Many animals may also suffer from an allergic reaction to fleabites (flea allergy dermatitis. F.A.D) which can cause inflammation, with irritation and hair loss.
- It is vital to treat all animals in the house, as dog fleas can live on cats and vice-versa. If Fleas are not treated, vast numbers of fleas will develop in a short space of time leading to considerable problems for all involved.
- Fleas may also transmit tapeworm

## How to get rid of a home infestation

1. Correctly treat all cats and dogs in your home every month for at least 3 months. Flea products are designed to kill fleas once they have jumped on to pets. They do not act as repellents, so new fleas can still jump on to the pet but these will then be killed by the product.
2. Vacuum the home, move all the furniture and concentrate on skirting boards and carpeted areas. This will remove some of the eggs before they develop further.
3. Wash pets bedding at 60 C to kill eggs and larvae. Remember to treat all blankets, carpets and kennels.
4. Thoroughly spray all floor space in the home with a household insecticidal spray. Home sprays kill flea eggs and larvae but they do not kill pupae therefore you may still see some new fleas hatching out for a while after using the spray.
5. Encourage the remaining flea pupae to hatch out into new adult fleas so that they can jump on to your treated pet and be killed before they lay more eggs. You can stimulate hatching by providing warmth, vibration, CO2 and humidity
  - Ensure your treated pet has access to all parts of the home
  - Turn up the heating in your home
  - Place damp towels on warm radiators
  - Vacuum to generate warmth and vibration
6. Once the home infestation has resolved, you will need to continue treating all cats and dogs in your home regularly.

**If you have any questions about any of our services or you would like to book in for a consultation, get in touch by phone [\(021\) 489 3033](tel:0214893033) or email [contact@animalcarehospital.ie](mailto:contact@animalcarehospital.ie)**