

## Basic Information on Flea Control

### A FEW FACTS ABOUT FLEAS

- Adult fleas lay 100% of their eggs *on the animal*. They must have a "Blood Meal" just before they lay their eggs. In other words, they have to bite your pet, suck up some blood, and then lay the eggs.
  - No eggs are laid in carpet, lawn, or bedding, but some dried blood and eggs fall off of the animal into these areas.
  - The eggs hatch into larvae, feed off of the dried blood, then turn into pupae covered by a protective cocoon. Soon, they hatch into adults, ready to mate and lay more eggs.
- Note: If there is no disturbance (vacuuming the carpet or mowing the lawn) pupae can survive up to 40 weeks.*

### WHY FLEA CONTROL PRODUCTS MAY NOT WORK!

- *Poor Application of Product.* Not enough product used to accomplish the goal. Customer washed dog or cat too soon before or after spot on application.
- *Slow knock-down of adult fleas.* Sometimes it doesn't seem to be working because it doesn't always kill right away – just give it time!
- Customer *doesn't vacuum* before or after treatment.
- *Too short of a residual.* The product worked, but it is time to reapply.
- Customer *discovers fleas have re-infested their pet.* As mentioned before, flea eggs hatch into larvae that feed off of dried blood. After feeding, they turn into pupae and are covered by a protective cocoon. During this cocoon stage regular insecticides cannot harm them. As the pupae hatch into adults, they look for a blood meal. If you use a product that includes an insect growth regulator (IGR), it will prevent the flea eggs from becoming biting adults. This will break the life cycle. IGRs typically last up to 210 days.

### HOW FLEA COLLARS WORK

- A flea collar is not going to kill fleas instantly. It can take as long as 6 hours to kill adult fleas. There is a very slow release of insecticide, so, it is safe for animals and people.
- The more active the animal is, the faster the "migration" of the chemical will be across the body. It works with the heat of the body and the oil on the hair. Do not bathe your pet during this period. Within 12 hours, the chemical is completely across the body of the animal.
- The flea may still bite the animal, and the animal will scratch, but the flea will die in 6 hours. In the meantime, you can use a product such as BioGroom LidoMed to help relieve the itching.



### WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT SPOT-ON PRODUCTS?

The medication localizes under your pet's skin in the oil glands and won't rinse off with swimming or bathing (when using a spot-on safe shampoo such as BioGroom Oatmeal Shampoo). Application is simple, smooth back the hair and place drops directly on the skin. Empty all contents of vial just between the shoulder blades. Do not allow the medication to run down the side of your pet. For maximum effectiveness do not bathe (or allow your dog to swim) 48 hours **before** applying the product and 48 hours **after** applying the product.

These products are available without a prescription, you do not have to purchase them from a veterinarian. We carry four spot-on products; Zodiac Spot-On®, Frontline Plus®, Advantage®, and Advantix®. One application lasts for four weeks. No need for smelly sprays or dips.

### Zodiac Spot On®

Zodiac Spot On® is an easy to use spot on which prevents flea eggs from developing into adult fleas for up to 30 days. Zodiac Spot On® for Dogs contains an IGR which kills and repels fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes for up to 30 days. Since the dog product cannot be used on cats, these products have a unique applicator design to help prevent misapplication. Spot On® can be used on cats over 12 weeks of age and dogs over 6 months of age.

### Frontline Plus®

Frontline provides fast-acting, long-lasting flea and tick control. Frontline doesn't wait for a flea or tick to bite your pet. It kills fleas and ticks when they come in contact with your dog or cat. Frontline Plus® has an additional ingredient (IGR) that keeps future fleas from biting your dog or cat by killing flea eggs and larvae before they turn into adults. These products can be used on dogs and cats over 8 weeks of age.

### Advantage®

Advantage® stops fleas from biting in 3-5 minutes, and starts killing within an hour. Within 12 hours all fleas are dead. Any reinfestations are dead within 2 hours. This product can be used on dogs over 7 weeks of age and cats over 8 weeks of age.

### Advantix®

Advantix® is a spot-on product with a difference - in addition to killing fleas, it repels and kills mosquitoes and ticks. Advantix has two great ingredients that work together to protect your dog. This product can be used on dogs over 7 weeks of age. **Caution:** *This product cannot be used on cats. If you have a family cat that comes in contact with your dog, we do not recommend that you use this product on your dog.*

## QUICK KILL WITHOUT A BATH, DIP, OR SPRAY

Although not a spot-on product, **Capstar®** is very effective. It is given in pill form according to your pet's weight. After your pet is treated, a tiny amount of Capstar® circulates in their blood. While Capstar® has no effect on your *pet* at the recommended dose, it is devastatingly effective against *fleas*. You may start to notice an effect within 15 minutes, and fleas should start falling off your pet in under 30 minutes. Capstar® remains effective for 24 hours, at which time your pet will be "greater than 90%" flea free. However, there may be unhatched fleas still in your house. The manufacturer recommends that Capstar® is given once a week for the first 4-6 weeks in order to kill fleas as they hatch. This product can be used on dogs and cats over 4 weeks of age. Capstar® can be used in addition to monthly spot on products.

## TREAT WHERE FLEAS LIVE

Fleas do not live on pets – they only feed on them. In fact, they spend 90% of their time OFF the pet! Treating the pet and not the environment is a waste of time and money and only contributes to developing resistant "super fleas". The ENVIRONMENT is divided into two segments: (1) Indoors - *house, kennel and bedding* and (2) Outdoors - *yard and surrounding areas*.

## INDOOR FLEA CONTROL

For the house, we recommend a thorough 3 step treatment. With today's "super fleas" one treatment is no longer adequate.

- Completely vacuum every room of the house followed by a treatment with premise sprays or flea foggers. Use a 6 ounce fogger in every room of the house – not just the area most frequented by the pet. Treat the hard-to-reach areas with a premise spray such as a home and carpet spray. This includes under beds, under couches, in closets, and anywhere the fogger cannot easily reach.
- If you used foggers or premise sprays, repeat this entire process **2 weeks later – and then again, 2 weeks after that (For a total of three complete treatments)**. That's right – it may take as long as 6 weeks to totally eradicate the fleas in your house. Do not be surprised if you continually see some fleas for up to 6 weeks. Fleas will continue to hatch from the pupae stage. You've got to zap them before they can develop into adults!
- Remember to vacuum thoroughly each time before you set the foggers. Vacuuming will agitate the pupae so they will hatch out. The cocoon protecting the pupae will not allow the chemicals in the flea control products to penetrate and harm the pupae. So, you must vacuum to "stir them up". When they hatch out they will be zapped by the product in the fogger or premise spray.
- It is also important to vacuum after the treatment to pick up the dead fleas and the dried blood food source. Most flea control products are "vacuum resistant", which means you will not vacuum them up after you apply. Tests show that you'll get better results if you vacuum than if you don't. Remember: Vacuum first, then treat, then vacuum again.  
**Tip:** Put a little bit of flea powder or the cut-off end of the flea collar into the vacuum cleaner bag. It will kill the fleas that are vacuumed up.

## WHEN YOU SPRAY OR FOG:

- If you have an aquarium, you should cover the tank and turn off the power filter and air-pump.
- If you have any animals in the house, remove them - especially birds.
- Once the foggers are set off - **DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOUSE!** Wait until they are finished.

## OUTDOOR FLEA CONTROL

- Treat the yard and kennel area with a spray every two weeks for three complete treatments.
- Mow the grass first – then spray. Mowing the grass agitates the pupae so they will hatch out – then the spray zaps the fleas. Do this on a dry day to ensure a more effective application.
- In the yard and in the house – fleas live out of the path of traffic. They are to the side of and behind things, where it is dark. In the yard, they are in shady areas such as under the house, trees, and plants. They are **not** in direct sunlight! Fleas are sensitive to light.

## TREAT PETS DIRECTLY

- For the 6 weeks during which you are treating the yard and house, bathe each pet weekly with a flea shampoo followed by a dip, powder, or on-animal spray. Or, if you prefer, bathe your pet monthly then wait 48 hours and apply a spot-on product.
- For puppies and kittens under 12 weeks, you can use a product such as Zodiac Flea Spray or Natural Chemistry De Flea. Spray a towel and wrap the young pet in the towel - leave the face exposed! Leave pet in towel for 15 minutes. Please remember - during the entire process you will **still see some fleas**. No product stops ALL eggs from hatching. You will also see some fleas directly on the pets, even following treatment. Remember – they will feed on the pet, then jump or fall off and DIE. There is no miraculous way to eliminate all fleas immediately, it takes time. In fact, it may take 6 to 8 weeks to *completely* clear out an infestation. Luckily, most problems are solved in less time.

**One more point:** if your pet is eating a premium pet food, it will have far fewer problems. A healthy skin and coat is not as appetizing to fleas.

## B&B Pet Stop's 3-part Treatment Plan

<u>Treatment Day:</u>	<u>Two Weeks later:</u>	<u>Two Weeks after THAT:</u>
<b>Bathe</b> your pet using a flea shampoo. Use a flea dip, on animal spray, or wait 48 hours and use a spot-on product.	<b>Bathe</b> your pet again with a flea shampoo and use a flea dip, or if you used a spot-on product <b>follow package directions.</b>	<b>Bathe</b> your pet again with a flea shampoo and use a flea dip, or if you used a spot-on product <b>follow package directions.</b>
<b>Mow</b> the lawn to then <b>spray</b> the yard.	<b>Mow</b> the lawn to then <b>spray</b> the yard.	<b>Mow</b> the lawn to then <b>spray</b> the yard.
<b>Vacuum</b> the house to then fog and/or use a premise spray. <i>Add flea powder or a left over piece of the flea collar to the vacuum bag.</i> (A few days later, vacuum the house again to pick up dead fleas).	<b>Vacuum</b> the house to then fog and/or use a premise spray. <i>Add flea powder or a left over piece of the flea collar to the vacuum bag.</i> (A few days later, vacuum the house again to pick up dead fleas).	<b>Vacuum</b> the house to then fog and/or use a premise spray. <i>Add flea powder or a left over piece of the flea collar to the vacuum bag.</i> (A few days later, vacuum the house again to pick up dead fleas).

© B&B Pet Stop, Inc. 2011