

Fleas and flea prevention

Fleas are tiny, brown insects that feed on pet and human blood. Because flea bites are itchy, pets may scratch and bite at their skin to the point of trauma and bacterial infection. Young, elderly, and weaker pets are especially at risk for blood loss and anemia with a significant flea infestation. Plus, fleas carry immature tapeworms that can infect pets if ingested.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Scratching
- Red, bumpy skin
- Hair loss, especially on the back and hind end
- Fleas or flea dirt on your pet



How is it diagnosed?

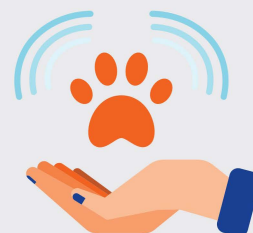
Your veterinarian can often directly observe fleas on your pet, or find fleas or flea dirt (black specks of flea feces) by combing through your pet's fur. If your pet has severe itching or other clinical signs of flea allergy dermatitis, fleas may be diagnosed on those signs alone.

How is it treated?

Prescription medication can kill any fleas currently on your pet, with many lasting up to 30 days. Using flea control in your pet's environment is the only way to prevent further infestation and other health issues.



- ▶ Prevent flea infestations by treating both your pet and their environment, including your house, yard, and other pets.



How to help your pet

- Ask your veterinarian about safe and effective year-round flea control
- Treat the environment—indoors and out—as well as your pet
- Read all labels thoroughly and use flea control products as directed, as some products may be toxic if used incorrectly
- Treat all dogs and cats in the household
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

