

Flea Information Sheet

PCD35 - April 2011



Introduction

Fleas are a common problem in homes with cats and dogs and can transmit disease, but this is rare, however, flea bites can cause discomfort to people and pets. Fleas are 2-3 mm long and are red or brown in colour. Flea bites are identified as tiny dark spots surrounded by a red area and cause itchiness. A pet with fleas will scratch more. A flea comb and frequent grooming may prevent fleas, but if your pet has fleas a the council, vet or pet shop will offer treatment.

Treatment

Effective treatment relies on thorough cleaning and the treatment of animals for fleas beforehand.

Before treatment starts you should:

- Hoover all floors and upholstered furniture, particularly crevices to remove hair, eggs and pupae and empty the bag/cylinder into a plastic bag and external bin.
- Remove items such as toys and clothes from the floor
- Sweep tile and concrete floors
- Treat cat and dog bedding with a flea insecticide from a vet or pet shop
- Remove children and pets and cover aquariums
- Remove and wash all bedding

After treatment

- Do not re-enter your house until the spray treatment has completely dried
- Where possible, do not vacuum for at least 14 days after treatment to ensure the pesticide eliminates all stages of the flea infestation as the spray treatment will kill fleas, but not their eggs. It will take several days before the fleas are completely eliminated.

Insecticides and pesticides are potentially dangerous. Store them away from children and pets and always read the labels and follow manufacture's instructions.



Further Information

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