



## The vet said your pet has fleas, now what?

Fleas are one of the more common causes of itchy skin in dogs and cats. The bite of one flea can cause a severe allergic reaction, making your pet groom themselves excessively. The most common area of itchy skin is on the back at the base of the tail. **Even if we do not find a live flea on your pet, flea dirt is an indication that they are present** and all cats and dogs in the household should be treated.

### TOPICAL TREATMENT

-The first step in getting rid of your flea problem is to start appropriate topical treatment for all cats and dogs in the house every month. Our clinic recommends and sells Frontline, Vectra, and Revolution (for cats). *It is critical that all animals are treated topically.*

-We also sell Capstar, a product that will kill all of the adult live fleas on your pet within a half hour of oral administration. Capstar can be given at the same time as a topical product, but has no residual action.

-We do not carry Program and Sentinel. These products provide flea birth control and may be beneficial to help in infestation situations, but they have no kill effect on the existing live adult fleas and larvae.

### TREATING YOUR HOME

-Treating your home is critical to stop the flea problem for your pet. To treat your home we recommend purchasing a fogger or a bomb. Each product has specific instructions on the amount of time the house needs to be vacated after use. *Follow these instructions closely.* Prior to using a fogger you should vacuum your carpets, this stimulates the adult fleas to come up from deep in the carpet to the surface. Ensure that you also vacuum and treat in between the couch cushions, under the couch and under the bed, as this is where the eggs and immature fleas live. After vacuuming remove the bag promptly or empty the canister outside.

-We do not recommend using flea collars on your pet. However, flea collars can be cut up and put in your vacuum bag or vacuum canister.

-You will also need to wash all bedding and blankets in a hot water cycle and put them through a high heat cycle in the dryer. This includes your comforter and sheets or anywhere your pet sleeps.

*Our doctors and staff will be happy to discuss flea treatment with you and any concerns that you may have. We carry prescription strength flea medications that are much safer and significantly more effective than what you can buy over the counter. Because these are prescription products, we can only sell you products for pets that we have seen within the last year and are current on vaccines.*

**Improper use of over the counter flea control medications, especially on cats, may result in pet death and illness in addition to owner frustration because the flea problem is not responding to treatment.**

