



ANIMAL ANTICS

Note for Pet Owners:

Pet Patrol 365 provides this information for educational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your veterinarian if your pet is ill as only they can correctly advise on the diagnosis and the recommended treatment for your pet.



FLEAS - Know the Facts -

A flea is no bigger than a pinhead, yet they are one of the most common causes of allergic skin disease in dogs and cats.

How can you tell if your pet has fleas?

Fleas are the size of a pinhead, so spotting them in a furry coat is very difficult. Not only is their size a problem, but also their ability to move and jump. Many fleas on a coat are easier to spot than the odd few. The next best thing to look for instead of the flea is the flea dropping or flea dirt. These are small black specks in the coat, often confused with soil. If you see these specks and are unsure if they are "flea dirt", then a very simple test is to get a piece of tissue or kitchen roll, brush on some of these black specks and moisten the tissue with water. If the specks leave a rusty coloured smear, they are "flea dirt" (all fleas eat blood, so all they pass is blood).

The flea life cycle

The flea life cycle may take as little as two to three weeks if the climate is right.

Adult fleas - feeds off your pet and begins to lay eggs after one or two days

Eggs - a single flea may lay up to 2,000 eggs in their lifespan

Larvae - eggs hatch and the larvae bury themselves away from light in carpets, rugs etc.

Pupae - the larvae spin a cocoon and 'pupate', just waiting for the right circumstances in which to hatch

... and then the cycle happens all over again.

How can you control fleas?

There are many different options available to treat your pet using conventional and/or homeopathic treatments. These vary in price, duration of action and methods of application.



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01342 851333 / 07974 728967

www.petpatrol365.co.uk

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