

May 2005

(916) 685-2494  
www.BradshawVet.com



BRADSHAW VETERINARY CLINIC

# May 2005 Newsletter

## Flea and Tick Control

Each year fleas infiltrate homes and pass on illnesses to thousands of people and pets. Flea and tick populations are easily established in any kind of environment, be it the home or the yard. Fleas and ticks will continue to feed and breed and leave unborn offspring throughout the environment, and they will evolve at various life stages, nourished by dried-blood and flea excrement in the carpet or grass and elsewhere.

The flea life-cycle has four stages: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Female fleas can lay as many as 50 eggs per day, which begins a life cycle that can be completed in as little as three weeks. The eggs hatch into larvae, which feed on "flea dirt" (the excrement of adult

fleas and partially digested blood). Larvae then grow and molt twice, then spin cocoons until vibrations indicate a host is nearby. Six-legged adults emerge and attach to a host to feed and breed, which begins the life cycle all over again.

Flea season for different environments and homes can vary, because heat and humidity can determine when fleas will hatch and begin to populate. Weather patterns fluctuate year round, and under the right conditions fleas can survive and continue reproducing indoors during the winter.

The adult flea will spend 99% of its life on a host animal but eggs fall off

and thereby spread infestation. Fleas are commonly found in bedding, carpet and fleas can cause a variety of problems.

They can cause anemia in young, old or ill pets. Symptoms can include pale gums, weakness, and lethargy. Transmission of tapeworm to pets is possible through fleas, which can cause irritability, erratic appetite, shaggy coat, mild diarrhea, weight loss, and seizures.



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### Dates to Remember:

- June 4th—Reduced Cost Vaccination Clinic 9am-11am.

## Flea and Tick Control (cont.)

Transmission of rodent fleas of plague to cats is also possible which causes fever, swollen lymph nodes, mouth sores, swollen tongue, cough and pneumonia. Some pets too, are very allergic to fleabites. Aside from general itching, pets who have flea allergies may develop a rash, inflammation, and hair loss, and some cats and dogs will over-groom themselves.



(Contact a pest control service representative to find out which product is safest for your home). Continue to vacuum in your home for ten days to two weeks to kill adult fleas that continue to emerge from their pupal cocoons. If your pet is not on any flea control, look into starting Sentinel for your dog and using Capstar<sup>®</sup> simultaneously. Capstar<sup>®</sup> is a great product because it is a small tablet that pets take like a

treat and is safe enough to be given every day during the infestation period. Capstar<sup>®</sup> targets only the adult fleas and begins working within 30 minutes of your pet taking it. With the use of Capstar<sup>®</sup> and Sentinel your home and pet will be flea free.

The most effective method of treating fleas is prevention. In preventing the population you can prevent infestation. Sentinel<sup>®</sup> is a product that will cover all the bases when it comes to flea control and parasitic control. When a flea bites a Sentinel<sup>®</sup>-treated pet, Sentinel stops the eggs from hatching. The flea population is divided between the life stages. The adult fleas only makes up 5% of the population, the pupae make up 10%, the larvae 35%, and eggs make up 50% of the population. By using Sentinel<sup>®</sup>, you can prevent an infestation by wiping out 50% of the population and preventing any growth thereafter.

Also very important, Sentinel<sup>®</sup> protects against heartworm, hookworm, roundworm, and whipworm.

Should an adult population arise in your home or backyard there are several things you can do to treat the area. If a flea population invades your home, find out which areas are the most infested and put a focus on treating those areas with full force. Wash your throw rugs and the pet's bedding. Vacuum upholstered furniture, remove and vacuum under cushions and in the crevices of furniture as well as all carpeting. Vacuum carpets and all surrounding areas frequented by pets. You can use a hand sprayer to treat all carpets with an insecticide that contains an insect growth regulator in severe situations.

*Female fleas can lay as many as 50 eggs per day, which begins a life cycle that can be completed in as little as three weeks.*

If you have a cat at home Revolution<sup>®</sup> is an excellent product in dealing with fleas because it kills fleas and flea eggs, as well as heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, and ear-mites. All of the above protection is offered in this one easy to apply topical solution. So treating all the animals in your environment will protect them and your home.

To treat the yard outside your home there are several things you can do to eliminate the issue as well. Outdoor sprays are only necessary if you detect a large population. Locate and remove debris in heavily infested areas, especially where pets rest. You can treat these areas with a spray – talk to your local pest control representative about residual insecticide and insect growth regulators. It also helps to expose areas shaded by vegetation or other objects to sunlight. The ultraviolet rays from the sun work to kill any existing populations in the environment.