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Fleas are a serious external parasite that cause severe itching, skin problems, and hair loss. Fleas can also cause anemia in small pets and spread diseases like Tularemia, Bartonellosis, and the internal parasite, tapeworms.

To better understand why it is so difficult to treat fleas, you must understand the life cycle. A single adult female flea can live up to 4 months and produce thousands and thousands of eggs. She lays her eggs on the pet, which then fall off in different areas of your pet's environment. The eggs hatch out after 1-10 days. The larval stage lives in your carpets, pet beds, and furniture for 5-11 days. Finally, the larva create an impenetrable cocoon that cannot be killed by pesticides, heat, or freezing, until they hatch into adults several weeks to months later, depending on the temperature and humidity in the home.

To treat fleas, you **must** treat every pet in the household (ie: if one of my dogs brings in fleas, both dogs, my indoor-only cat, and our ferret, must also be treated) with a topical flea product for at least 3 consecutive months and also treat the environment where the pet lives and spends time (unless you have a very recent infestation).

First, treat all your pets in the household with one of our topical treatments listed below, then vacuum your house, including stairs and hallways and discard the bag/bin in an outside garbage (fleas can hatch within these containers and re-infest the home). Next, wash all bedding where the pet spends time-including your own bedding if your pet sleeps with you. Finally, treat your home using one of our products listed below. Fleas like to hide in inconspicuous areas, so make sure to treat carpets, rugs, underneath furniture, along floorboards, and on stairways.

PLEASE READ ALL PRODUCT DIRECTIONS BEFORE USE! DO NOT RELY SOLELY ON THIS HANDOUT FOR ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED!

Topical products available at Brakken Veterinary Clinic to treat your pet:

1.) Frontline Plus for fleas, ticks, lice, and sarcoptic mange: A topical, waterproof product that is applied monthly, and lasts for at least 1 month. Frontline kills adult fleas, eggs and larvae within 18 hours of infestation. One of the only products approved for use on pregnant and lactating pets. For use in dogs and cats 8 weeks and older.

Directions: Part your pet's hair so you can see the skin between the shoulder blades. Squeeze the entire dose directly on the animals skin. This product spreads onto the skin and "wicks out" of each hair follicle a little at a time. It is best applied at least 2 days before or after swimming or bathing to be sure that the oils on the coat are sufficient to spread the product across the entire body. Do not touch product or rub in after application.

2.) Vectra for cats for fleas\Vectra 3D for dogs for fleas, ticks and mosquitoes : A topical, water

resistant product that is applied monthly and lasts for 30 days. Vectra 3D kills and repels adult fleas, eggs and larvae within 2 hours of contact. Vectra for cats is approved for cats 8 weeks and older and Vectra 3D is approved for dogs 7 weeks and older. Remember, Vectra #D is approved for dogs only.

Directions: Part your pets hair down to skin level. For pets weighing less than 20 pounds, apply the entire tube directly on the skin between the shoulder blades. For dogs between 21 and 95 pounds, apply in 3 locations: one between the shoulder blades, mid-back, and at the base of the tail. For dogs over 96 pounds, apply to skin in four spots along the dogs back, beginning from shoulder blades to the base of the tail. Do not touch product or rub in after application.

3.) Ovitrol Plus for fleas, ticks and bots: We recommend using as a quick kill for adult fleas. Plus, has the advantage of an insect growth regulator to kill eggs for up to 2 months. For use in dogs and cats 12 weeks and older.

Directions: Ruffle your pets hair coat and spray a light, even coverage against the natural lay of the hair. When applying to the face, cover your pets eyes. For pets under 3 pounds, wrap the pet in a towel that has been sprayed with Ovitrol and hold on pet for 5-10 minutes. Repeat every two months. May be applied weekly if needed.

Products used to treat your home available at Brakken Veterinary Clinic:

1.) Siphotrol Plus: Kills adult fleas for about 2-4 weeks. Has an insect growth regulator that is effective on flea eggs for 7 months by preventing new eggs from hatching.

Directions: Prepare your home by removing pets, cover aquariums, and areas where you prepare food. Vacuum thoroughly and discard vacuum bag or container in outside trash. Hold container upside down and spray lightly, covering carpets, rugs, drapes and anywhere your pet rests (remember to get under furniture and under couch cushions). Leave the room until surfaces are dry. 1 can treats 2,000 square feet.

2.) Flea Busters: A statically charged, pH balanced, finely milled powder, that kills adult fleas and larvae by dehydrating their exoskeleton, but does not affect mammals. Flea busters is a safe, chemical-free alternative to most home treatments.

Directions: Vacuum thoroughly and discard vacuum bag or container in outside trash. Lightly sprinkle product onto carpets, wall edges and anywhere your pet rests. Brush over with a broom. Results last up to 1 year and one 3 pound container treats 900 square feet.