







## Fleas and Ticks

Spring and Summer are typically the time of year that fleas and ticks come out of hiding to pester you and your pets. Fleas lay their eggs on the animal, as well as feed on its blood. Along with the relentless itching and scratching your pet commonly suffers, fleas and ticks can pose serious health risks to both animals and humans. Keep your pet healthy and happy this season with tips from InternetPets:



-  Putting a stop to a flea or tick infestation requires treating the pet itself, home, and yard. Concentrating solely on ridding the animal of pests is insufficient in treating the problem in the long-term. Flea eggs are not sticky, and they usually fall off of the animal into the carpet, bedding, floorboards, and dirt.
-  A **shampoo**, or "flea bath" is a good first attack for fleas found on your pet. **Flea dips** are strong chemical rinses to rid animals not only of fleas, but mites and ticks as well. Your pet may also benefit from a **spot-on** flea treatment, applied between the shoulder blades of the animal, which can last up to a month.
-  Only about 10% of the total flea infestation will be found on your pet. The other 90%--eggs, larvae, pupa and more adult fleas--reside in your pet's environment. Pet bedding and upholstery should be washed frequently, and all carpets vacuumed daily. Vacuuming is especially important for picking up eggs, larvae and pupae before they mature. Changing the vacuum bag often will keep anything picked up from escaping the vacuum and re-infesting the house.
-  Keeping pets in a fenced yard can prevent encounters with other animals and exposure to new flea and tick populations. Maintenance of yards and lawns will further decrease pest problems, as most insects find longer grasses a more inhabitable environment. Rodents, who can spread fleas and ticks as well, are also less likely to dwell in a yard with short grass.

