



Hours of Operation

Mon—Wed: 8am—6pm Thurs: 8am—8pm
Fri: 8am—5pm Sat: 8am—Noon
24-Hour Emergency On-Call 7 Days a Week

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Hopefully, spring will be here shortly and the warm weather will come with it. However, with the warm weather comes fleas. Last year we had more complaints than ever regarding flea problems. So, this issue is dedicated to fleas in the hopes that we can answer many of the questions you may be asking.

In other news, Deerfield Veterinary Clinic is on facebook. At the request of many clients, we have started a fan page where you can view pictures of interesting cases, the team goofing around, and the clinic and Laynie as they grow together. We may also post information that we feel is important to pass around. To become a fan, visit our website at www.deerfieldvetclinic.com and click on the facebook link found on our home page.

With the upcoming Memorial Day in mind, we would like to thank all of our current and past military members. Thank you for your willingness to sacrifice your safety to keep others from harm! We are now offering a 10% military discount to anyone currently in the armed forces and anyone who has served. Please bring in a current military ID, a discharge form, or proof of membership to the American Legion or VFW. Thank you again for all you have done!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity once again to thank everyone for their support and for their trust in us to take care of their pets. We know there are many choices out there for veterinary care and we are honored that our clients have chosen us. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Simon, Jenni, and Elayna George
And the team of Deerfield Veterinary Clinic



A young Dr. George examining a sick puppy

Meet The Flea

There are four life stages to the flea:

1. Adult
2. Pupae
3. Larvae
4. Eggs



When you see fleas on your pet, it is usually an **adult** flea. Adult fleas make up 5% of the total flea population on your pet.

So, if you see fleas, you probably have a much more serious problem going on. Those adults usually live for 120 days.

Before they become adults, fleas live in the **pupae** stage of their life. This stage makes up 10% of the flea population and they can survive for 174 days.

Prior to that is the **larvae** stage. These are very difficult to see and only live for 5-11 days. However, they make up 35% of the population and if only a fraction of these larvae live, you could still have a serious infestation.

The first stage is the **eggs** which make up 50% of the population. Again, these are very hard to see and nearly impossible to kill. Eggs usually hatch within 1-10 days.

Now for the fun facts:

- Adult fleas have one goal—to eat blood so that they can reproduce
- Adult fleas can live for up to a year in between meals
- Female fleas can lay over 500 eggs in a lifetime
- Fleas can reproduce year round indoors (even in the winter)
- Fleas carry tapeworms, which means once your animal is infested, it will probably also have tapeworms which can seriously affect your pets' health

Where are the fleas in my house?

Other than living on your animals, fleas have many other places they can hide.

1. The Backyard, the Park, Woods—As soon as it is warm, the fleas that may have been brought in these areas by wild animals will attach to your pet.
2. Indoor Bedding and Carpeting—The immature stages of fleas can develop in pets' bedding, sofa cushions, carpets, and in anything fibrous. They can even thrive in the cracks of a hardwood floor.
3. Porches and Under the House—Outdoor rugs, patio cushions, and shady areas under a porch are great places for those immature fleas to wait for their moment.

So, Now What Do I Do?



How to Prevent a Flea Infestation

Once you have an infestation, it can feel like an uphill battle to get rid of it. So, here are some tips to keep it from happening in the first place.



Treat with a high quality flea treatment year round. We recommend two brands for topical treatment—K9 Advantix and Frontline Plus for dogs and Frontline Plus and Advantage Multi for cats. There is also Program, which is an oral treatment if you are not comfortable putting chemicals on your dog. For cats, we have injectable Program which fights fleas for 6 months. These topical treatments can be used along with Program in the cases of a serious infestation.



Vacuum frequently—vacuum everything from carpets, sofas, car seats and other soft things your pet may come into contact with. Also, wash your pets bedding, blankets, and toys in very hot water.



Block off damp and shady areas where your pet might go—under your deck or porch, beneath staircases, and any other outdoor areas.



Simon Says:

I am doing everything you told me to do and I still have a flea problem! Now what? - Numerous Clients

First we need to ask what you are treating the pet with. If it is something you bought from the store to save money, you've actually wasted that money. Products bought from a grocery store are not nearly as effective as the products we've listed above. And, once you've put store-bought products on, we can not treat with anything else for one month. The last thing you want to do is mix chemicals from flea baths, topical flea treatments, and flea collars. Mixing chemicals can cause seizures and other serious neurological problems.

Second, if you are using our recommended products, there are a few things you should know. When applying the topical treatments, **all** of the medication must be placed on the skin (not in the hair) in order to work effectively. It can be placed in numerous spots down the spine of the pet. If you would like a demonstration on how to properly put the topical treatments on, you may bring your pet in and we will show you how it should be done. There can be no bathing or swimming the day before, the day of, or the day after you put the treatment on. Also, if bathing after the allotted time, you should use a soap-free shampoo. Many shampoos are too harsh and can strip the chemicals off of the animal.

Finally, if you are doing everything right, you may have a problem in the environment. There are "bombs" you can use, but be sure to evacuate the house and tip all of your furniture up to avoid places for the fleas to hide. If the infestation is bad enough, you may need to hire a professional to clean and kill the pests. Call the office for some recommended cleaners.



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Laughter Is The Best Medicine

Bizarre Real Life Animal Laws Part III

- In North Carolina, it is illegal to use elephants to plow fields.
- In New York City, you may not shoot a rabbit from the back end of a Third Avenue streetcar while it is in motion.
- In Ohio, it is against the law to set fire under your mule when it balks.
- In Marshalltown, Iowa, a horse may not eat a fire hydrant.