



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Flea Prevention Information

Controlling fleas on the puppy you are raising is a multi-step process. Adult fleas spend most of their time on an animal, but the flea eggs, larvae, and pupae are found in abundance in the indoor and outdoor environments. For every flea that you see on the puppy, there are likely to be hundreds of eggs and larvae in your home and yard. Therefore, a truly effective flea control program always includes treating the environment as well as treating all animals in the household.

- Properly apply Frontline® Gold on the first of every month. Do not bathe, let the puppy go swimming, or otherwise get wet 24-hours prior or 24-hours after application.
- All other pets in the household (including outdoor pets) must be on a reliable monthly flea preventative as well.
- **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the indoor environment:** Vacuum thoroughly, especially below drapes, under furniture edges, and where your pets sleep. It is estimated that vacuuming can remove up to 50% of flea eggs. Vacuum daily in high traffic areas, weekly in others. Each time seal the vacuum bag in a plastic bag and discard immediately. Additionally, there are safe sprays that can be used indoors to prevent re-infestation. Virbac “Knockout” is one example.
- Wash all pets’ bedding weekly. Use heat to dry.
- Clean your automobile, pet carrier, garage, basement, or any other place where pets spend much time.
- **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the outdoor environment:** There are many safe pyrethrin based sprays that can be used in your yard. Virbac’s yard spray is one example. The fleas like to live in closed areas such as bushes, steps, under the house, porches, decks, under mats, etc. The eggs will die when exposed to direct sunlight and topical sprays. Repeat in 2 weeks. Another method of outdoor flea control without using chemicals is using free living nematodes. This option may take longer to clear the infestation; however, it could be helpful for long-term control. Be aware that urban wildlife and feral cats passing through are often carriers of fleas. Try to eliminate places to hide such as open sheds or crawl spaces.

Keep in mind that until all the fleas in your home have died, you will probably still see some fleas, even on a treated pet, since some immature forms may continue to develop. Also, it can take up to 24-hours for a flea to die on a pet that has been treated with an effective topical flea medication. If a large number of flea eggs and larvae are present, it can often take two to three months for fleas to be fully cleared from the home.