

“I AM USING MY RECOMMENDED PRODUCT AS DIRECTED SO WHY DO I STILL HAVE FLEAS?”

Possible Breaks in the Flea Control System:

If you are using your veterinary recommended product but are still finding fleas or your pet still has symptoms, why isn't the prevention working?

Here is a checklist of possible breaks in a flea control system:

- All Pets in the Household** need to be treated with prevention at least monthly. This includes indoor/outdoor cats **even if** they are mostly outdoor. If you have a pocket pet such as a rat, rabbit, guinea pig, etc ask your vet what flea control product would be recommended for the pet.
- Visiting Pets.** If you have a visiting pet with fur, make sure he/she is current on flea control OR don't have visiting pets. A visiting pet with fleas can start a new infestation of fleas that can take several months to hatch and die even if your own pets are on flea control.
- Frequent baths/Swimming.** If you are using a topical product you may be washing it off and decreasing the efficacy. Ask your vet if it should be applied more frequently or consider an oral product or Seresto collar.
- Residual Larvae hatching in environment.** Since part of the flea lifecycle is off of your pet, it is very likely that there is a flea population in your pet's indoor environment. It can take several months for all the eggs to hatch and fleas to die with the use of flea control. Consider spot treating common areas where your pet sleeps/rests (furniture, carpet, etc). These are the areas that are more likely to have flea larvae or eggs. It is also recommended that you wash any dog beds, sheets, rugs, furniture covers that it is possible to wash. Use hot water and the hottest dryer cycle for decontamination.

For environmental treatment we have found *Siphotrol Spray* to be most effective. This is much more effective than flea bombs/foggers because it targets the most likely areas for flea larvae to be found as opposed to the dilute mists produced by foggers that may or may not get to appropriate areas. Areas where your pet sleeps or sits are spot treated once then treatment is repeated in 14 days.

- Proper use and frequency of products.** If you are doing all of the above, check in with your vet again to see if you need to modify the frequency or type of product you are using.