

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Flea Control Made Easy

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Thanks to modern ingenuity, flea control has made some major advancements. There are new products available that make flea eradication not only possible, but easy and safe. They take only seconds a month to use and are much, much more effective than baths, dips, powders, sprays or ointments you get at the store.

If your pet scratches, loses hair around the lower back, has black grit on the skin or small dark brown insects crawling around, he probably has fleas. Even if you don't see obvious signs of fleas, it is a good idea to have your pet on a flea preventative program to keep fleas away. You don't have to have a dirty house, and your pets don't have to go outdoors in order to have fleas. It's just life with animals!

If your pet is a very young puppy or kitten less than 6 weeks old or is very sick or old then your choices are limited. We recommend you bathe your pet (being sure to keep him warm afterwards until he is completely dry), or use a special "flea comb" to remove all the adult fleas. Then move the pet to a flea free area and clean up the old area using sprays or by vacuuming, mopping, and discarding infected items.

If your pet is over six weeks of age you can start him on flea prevention. **Sentinel and Revolution are heartworm preventatives with flea control in them.** You should start using these medications before you see fleas. Sentinel is a pill you give dogs once a month and Revolution is an ointment for dogs and cats applied every month. They are extremely safe and very effective when used all year long on all dogs and cats in the area.

If **fleas are already present**, and your pet is over 10 weeks of age, you can't treat all your pets, or if you have a severely allergic pet, **Frontline Plus Flea Ointment** should be used. It is also excellent when **ticks are a problem**. You just apply one tube to the back of the pet's neck once every month. This product kills 98% of adult fleas on the pet within 24 hours.

If fleas are a real problem and you need fast relief, then it is possible to combine these treatments, for example giving Sentinel and Frontline or alternating every two weeks between Revolution and

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Frontline. Of ten after the first 3 to 6 months of treatment, you can drop the Frontline and continue the Sentinel or Revolution.

The important thing to know is that your pet no longer has to live in misery. Fleas should no longer just be accepted as a part of your pet's life.

Since everyone here at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville has pets and also fights fleas, please feel free to talk to us about what we use and recommend for your unique situation. You can call us at 952-3643. 🐾