



## Fleas

Feeling Itchy? Fleas are a common problem for our pets. They jump onto your pets in order to feed on your pet's blood and usually, within 48 hours fleas begin to lay eggs. These eggs develop into larvae feeding on skin and organic debris in the pet's bedding. After 2 months the larva forms a pupa which can stay in the environment for many months before becoming a young adult flea. These young fleas then seek a suitable host – YOUR PET!  
Dogs, Cats, Rabbits and even humans can be bitten!

Fleas can pass from one animal to another via direct contact or from being in contact with contaminated environments, such as bedding.

### **If you find a flea on your pet this is just the start of the problem**

- The eggs fall from your pet onto carpets, bedding, upholstery and other flooring. Therefore you must also treat your house with a suitable household spray and wash all bedding on a HOT wash or discard it
- Interestingly 95% of the flea population is in the bedding and only 5% of the flea population live on the animal
- As fleas will live on both Cats, Dogs and Rabbits, all other pets in the house must be treated, according to their species.
- Fleas can cause Flea Allergy Dermatitis. This is caused by flea saliva that irritates your pet's skin. It can become sore, uncomfortable and infected requiring further veterinary treatment.
- Fleas carry tapeworms, so if your pet ingests a flea whilst grooming, they may also get a tapeworm infestation and also require treatment for worms with a prescription wormer.
- Fleas feed on your pets blood, where they are heavy flea infestations your pets red blood cell level can become low (Anaemia). This can be found in heavy flea infestations. This is particularly concerning in smaller pets and puppies and kittens.

The treatment for fleas couldn't be easier. It's a simple spot-on preparation that goes on the back of the neck, usually once a month. Remember prevention is better than cure!

### **NEVER APPLY A DOG SPOT-ON TREATMENT TO A CAT, THIS IS FATAL**

At Carmel Veterinary Centre we will inform you on when your pet is due their next flea treatment.

**Please ask one of our veterinary team for the best treatment for your pet.**