

Noblesville Square Animal Clinic
150 Mensa Drive
Noblesville, IN 46062
(317)773-7112

Flea Treatment Sheet

General Flea Life Cycle

1. An adult flea dies in 6-8 weeks without exposure to a source for a blood meal.
2. Eggs incubate for 2-12 days before hatching into larvae.
3. The larvae burrow into carpeting, floor cracks, and crevices (including between wood flooring pieces).
4. The larvae typically form a cocoon in 14-21 days. The fleas are resistant to treatment in the cocoon stage. This is the reason fleas will be seen over the next few months despite treating the animal and the house.
5. The adult flea typically hatches 14-21 days after the flea enters the cocoon. The flea hatching from the cocoon is triggered by carbon dioxide or vibrations when a pet or person walks by.
6. The entire flea life cycle can last from 14-21 days under optimal conditions, or up to 1 year under unfavorable conditions.
7. A single flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day. A house with fleas can take several months (usually 2-5 months) to completely rid the environment of fleas due to the life stages that will continue to hatch out in the future.
8. Adult fleas are only 10% of the total flea population in the environment.

Treatment

1. The house, yard, and all pets must be treated to successfully treat the flea infestation on the pets and in the environment.
2. Flea infestations require several treatments and can take several months (usually 2-5 months) to completely remove all of the fleas. A one-time treatment only kills the adult fleas. A recurrence of fleas will result when the pupae emerge from the resistant eggs.
3. All pets in the house must be treated using a veterinary flea control product. Flea products need to be dosed every 30 days until the infestation is controlled. The over the counter products are not as effective and have higher incidences of toxicity (especially in cats) as compared to veterinary products.
4. Vacuum the house daily to remove the eggs and larvae from the carpets and furniture. This includes vacuuming between the cushions of furniture. Throw the vacuum bag away in sealed garbage bag. Steam cleaning is highly effective at removing fleas, flea eggs, and flea larvae.
5. The house should be treated with a product to kill the immature life stages. An area treatment spray should be used. Flea bombs and foggers do not do a great job of getting under furniture where the fleas live. Exterminators can be used to bring in a product specifically for fleas.
6. All of the bedding where the pets sleep must be washed and dried on the hottest setting allowable.
7. The outdoors should be treated for fleas if pets are inside and outside. Areas of shade, around bushes, sheds, and under decks or patios should be treated for fleas. Flea larvae are sensitive to heat. They die in sunny areas but thrive in shaded areas. Organic debris such as leaves and dense vegetation harbor fleas and should be discarded.