



SEADOWN

VETERINARY GROUP



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Flea Treatment

Although now a year round problem, as the weather starts to warm up we find the incidence of flea problems in dogs and cats will increase.

The most common flea found on both dogs and cats is the cat flea *Ctenocephalides felis felis*. The adult flea spends its entire life on the animal, feeding, mating and laying eggs. This may take 3-5 days. The rest of the life-cycle takes place in the environment, taking anything from 20 days to 140 days for the eggs to hatch into larvae and then become adult fleas. An adult female will lay on average up to 200 eggs a day. It doesn't take long for a few fleas to become an infestation.

Many dogs and cats will also be allergic to the fleas as they bite, leading to intense itching and discomfort. In severe cases the animals may be so itchy they lose their fur and cause damage to the skin as they bite and chew. For young animals and those that are elderly, infestation with many fleas can cause a life-threatening anaemia.



It is recommended that good regular flea control is used for all animals, not just to treat the problem, but to prevent the infestation in the first place. Flea treatment may be administered to an animal, usually in the form of tablets, an injection or 'spot-ons'. Some flea treatments are also combined with worm or tick prevention. It is also possible to treat the environment, which is especially important in the face of a flea problem. Flea infestations can be difficult to get on top of and the number of products available can be overwhelming. We offer free flea consultations, when you are only required to pay the price of the treatment advised, but not for the professional advice of the vet or nurse.

Please contact the surgery if you wish to make an appointment.

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