

FLEA AND TICK CONTROL

Why do I need to use preventative measures?

Fleas and ticks are very common in the humid and warm environment of Hong Kong, and can cause a variety of conditions from skin disease, allergies and life-threatening anaemias. Control of these pests is therefore of the utmost importance. Also large numbers of flea eggs in your flat can lead to mass hatchings and fleas biting yourself and your family!

Where does my pet get them from?

Every time your pet goes outside then they can pick up fleas and ticks. Fleas lay eggs everywhere in the animal's normal environment, thereby producing a growing reservoir of parasites within the home that can cause repeated or continued infestation. It is also possible to bring fleas and ticks home to your pets (vets often do!).

What are the signs of infestation?

A low level of fleas may not cause any obvious signs of disease in your pet. However allergic conditions can be caused by continual exposure to flea bite saliva, and increasing numbers of the parasite can lead to excessive scratching, depression, hair loss and skin infections. You may see actual fleas on your pet.

Ticks are large slow moving parasites that feed and then drop off, so the actual parasite may or may not be seen. Tick bites are small raised itchy lesions on the skin. In Hong Kong a number of parasites are carried by ticks and spread to your dog's blood via the tick's saliva during feeding. These are collectively termed TICK FEVER and kill many dogs every year. Clinical signs of this disease are fever, lethargy, anaemia or jaundice, loss of appetite, and dark brown or red urine. For more information please refer to our Tick Fever information sheet.

What preventative measures are available?

Effective control involves treating both the animal and the environment ALL YEAR ROUND:

YOUR PET:

- FRONTLINE spray or spot-on plus should be applied once monthly in order to control fleas (and to a lesser extent ticks). The spray is safe to use in pregnant and lactating animals and puppies and kittens from 2-3 days. Spot-on plus is safe to use from 8 weeks of age in both puppies and kittens.
- REVOLUTION spot-on can be applied every 4 weeks for reasonable flea control but is not very effective for ticks. It is safe to use in kittens and puppies from 8 weeks of age.
- ADVANTIX spot-on (for dogs only) can be applied every 4 weeks for more resistant fleas and ticks, it is safe to use from 7 weeks of age.
- PREVENTIC tick collars are available for dogs, but should not be used in puppies less than 12 weeks of age. The collar is not effective against fleas so should be used in conjunction with either FRONTLINE, REVOLUTION or ADVANTIX. Full protection occurs 48 hours after collar application, collars should be changed every 2 months and removed during bathing or swimming.
- SERESTO tick and flea collars are available for dogs (<8kg and >8kg) and can be used in puppies from 7 weeks of age. Protection can last for 4-8 months (recommended to change every 6 months).

THE ENVIRONMENT:

Whilst adult fleas live on your pet, the eggs, larvae and pupae all reside inside the house, providing a reservoir for repeat infections.

- Flea bombs and sprays (DO NOT USE ON YOUR PET'S COAT)
- Pest control services
- PROGRAM a once monthly oral treatment given to your cat or dog that prevents subsequent eggs laid from hatching. It is often used in conjunction with topical flea control e.g. FRONTLINE etc. as it does not kill adult fleas but is rather a long term preventative environmental measure. It has to be given to all animals in the house all year round to be effective.

FOR APPROPRIATE FLEA AND TICK CONTROL FOR YOUR PET PLEASE CONSULT YOUR VET

預防跳蚤及牛蜱

為甚麼要預防跳蚤及牛蜱？

香港的天氣和暖而潮濕，故此跳蚤及牛蜱均十分常見。跳蚤和牛蜱可導致皮膚病、敏感症狀甚至嚴重貧血等問題，所以預防該兩種害蟲的工作非常重要。另外跳蚤可大量產卵並在濕暖天氣孵化，繼而叮咬人畜。

跳蚤及牛蜱從何來？

每當動物接觸外間環境，跳蚤及牛蜱便有機會跳到動物的皮毛上。跳蚤會在動物的居住環境產卵繁殖，然後再跳到動物身上吸取血液，形成惡性循環。人類可經由衣物將跳蚤帶至家居（經常在獸醫身上發生）。

跳蚤及牛蜱對動物有甚麼影響？

少量跳蚤未必會引起明顯病徵。然而，長期接觸跳蚤的唾液會使動物產生敏感反應。隨著跳蚤的數量增加，動物會出現搔癢、精神不振、毛髮脫落及皮膚感染。主人有機會留意到跳蚤在動物身上出現。

牛蜱則是移動緩慢的較大型寄生蟲。牛蜱會在動物身上吸血後會脫落，故此主人未必會留意到牛蜱在狗隻身上。牛蜱叮咬動物後患處會出現細小而痕癢的腫塊。本地的牛蜱寄住著病原體，該病原體會隨牛蜱的吸血過程傳播予犬隻，令犬隻患上俗稱牛蜱熱的疾病。牛蜱熱的病徵包括發燒、昏睡、貧血、黃疸、食慾不振、深棕色或紅色尿液。關於牛蜱熱之詳情可參考本會牛蜱熱資料單張。

預防方法

預防跳蚤及牛蜱必須全年從動物及環境兩方面著手：

動物

- **Frontline 噴劑及滴劑**：為有效預防跳蚤，應每月在動物身上使用，不應間斷。預防牛蜱之效用略遜於跳蚤。噴劑適用於懷孕、哺乳中及年幼的貓狗。滴劑則可用於八星期大以上的動物。
- **Revolution 滴劑**：每四星期使用一次，能有效控制跳蚤，但不能控制牛蜱。該滴劑適用於八星期以上之貓狗。
- **Advantix 滴劑**：只適用於七星期以上的狗隻，每四星期使用一次，適合用於較頑固的跳蚤及牛蜱。
- **Preventic 牛蜱帶**：只適用於十六週以上的狗隻。牛蜱帶對跳蚤沒有作用，故此主人應同時使用 **Frontline**、**Revolution** 或 **Advantix** 防蚤。配戴後四十八小時達至最佳效果。該產品需每兩個月更換一次，並且不能沾水。
- **Seresto 牛蜱及蚤帶**：提供兩種產品（八公斤以下或以上）予狗隻使用。適用於七星期以上的狗隻，效用可維持四至八個月（建議每六個月更換一次）。

環境

除了動物身上的跳蚤外，環境裏的蚤卵亦要小心處理，否則問題很快復發：

- 滅蚤炸彈及噴劑（千萬不要噴在動物身上）
- 專業滅蟲公司
- **Program**：每月一次的口服藥，可防止蚤卵孵化（對成蚤無效），適用於貓狗。通常與 **Frontline** 同用，作為一種長效的防蚤策略，而且需要全年用於家中所有動物才會有效。

欲知道更多有關詳情可請教你的獸醫