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Top Ten Flea Myths

READ THESE COMMON MYTHS TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Think you know about fleas and their impact on your pet?

1 Myth A few fleas are no big deal.

Reality You know the expression “breeding like rabbits”? Well, a few fleas can turn into a massive infestation fast. And if your pet is sensitive to flea antigen, even one bite can make them uncomfortable. Your pet deserves to be free of fleas.

2 Myth Pets need flea preventative only a few months out of the year.

Reality In warm, humid areas, fleas thrive all year. Even in more seasonal climates, a warm spring or fall can extend flea season up to ten months a year. Plus, fleas can survive on your pet and inside anywhere! Year round flea control is best for your pet and your family.

3 Myth I've never seen a flea on my pet, so they don't need flea control.

Reality Just because you don't see fleas doesn't mean they aren't there. Your veterinarian uses a special comb to detect fleas and their waste. Even if your pet is clean, they can pick up fleas anytime, so it's a good idea to protect them all year.

4 Myth I can get flea products at the pet store.

Reality All flea products are not created equal. Many store brands are not as potent and therefore not as effective as products from your veterinarian. Some are even toxic, especially if administered wrong. Your veterinarian can recommend the best product for your pet and their lifestyle (does he swim? hunt rodents?) and show you how and when to apply.

5 Myth There are no more fleas, I'm done.

Reality One important reason to provide continuous control is this: Pets can become ultra-sensitive to fleas if they're intermittently exposed. So, if you notice fleas, treat them, and three months later they return, and you treat them again and three months later they return again, your pet is more likely to develop flea allergy dermatitis—a miserable condition causing itchiness, lesions and hair loss. Don't let fleas come back and your pet is at a much lower risk for flea allergy.

6 Myth I only need to treat my one flea-ridden pet, not the other pets in my household.

Reality All pets in your household need to be treated—especially cats (fleas' favorite host) and even the guinea pig. Some pets are more sensitive to fleas, so if you treat only the pet that's scratching, they are likely to be re-infested by other pets that also have fleas but aren't giving you itching signals.

7 Myth I can't afford a monthly flea preventative.

Reality Providing preventative health for your pet compared to the stress and cost of treating flea-related illnesses—monthly control is a low-cost alternative. If you are unable to pay for an entire year, ask your veterinarian about setting up a realistic program, such as having a three-month supply mailed to you with no shipping charges applied.

8 Myth My pet stays indoors, so they won't pick up fleas.

Reality Humans can very easily carry fleas into the home on their shoes. Other pets who do go outside can also carry fleas inside. Fleas can also jump from one animal to another through a window or door screen.

9 Myth All flea preventatives protect pets from fleas only.

Reality Flea products are often combined with agents that control other parasites as well, helping protect your pets from additional diseases—some of which can be transmitted to you. So keeping pets on flea control is best for the whole family.

10 Myth Flea products are toxic.

Reality Unlike “natural” products, prescription flea control agents have been extensively tested and approved by the FDA. Your veterinarian and the entire healthcare team use these products on their own pets and they can answer any questions you have about safety.

