

Aliso Beach Animal Clinic
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FLEA CONTROL

On Your Pet

1. Wash your pet with a mild soap, like "Tearless" shampoo.
2. Wait until thoroughly dry and then apply a topical flea product directly to the skin, either Advantage or Frontline. Do this once monthly. (Note: for large dogs apply ½ of the liquid to the back of the neck and the other ½ to the skin on the back above the tail. For cats all the liquid goes on the back between the shoulder blades.)If this seems ineffective, alternate Advantage one month and Frontline the next. If this seems ineffective, then apply either of these products once every 3 weeks instead of monthly.
3. Use a metal flea comb daily to monitor the flea numbers. With Advantage and Frontline you will still see fleas but they will be sluggish or dead on the skin.
4. Topical flea products will not repel fleas. They only kill the ones that get on your pet. If you continue to see fleas, you have a problem with fleas in the environment.
5. Flea shampoos and flea dips are not effective.

In the House

1. Vacuum the house thoroughly, even the hardwood floors.
2. Spray the carpet with a product designed to kill fleas, a "premise spray." These are available at the hardware or pet stores. Test it out first to make sure it doesn't stain your carpet.
3. Flea bomb your house, every room where your pet inhabits. This is particularly effective in houses with a lot of hardwood floors. Fleas live in the cracks of the floor.
4. Repeat spraying or bombing at 10-14 day intervals if you continue to see fleas on your pet.
5. If you cannot spray or bomb, or spraying and bombing do not work, then call an exterminator to rid your house of fleas.
6. If you do not want to kill the fleas with these chemicals, then call Fleabusters. This company will put a non-toxic powder in your house and carpet which will stop the life cycle of the fleas. It does not kill the fleas.
7. Even if your pet is mainly outdoors, you must treat the indoors if he/she comes inside for any length of time.

In the Yard

1. It is difficult to rid the yard of fleas as there are a number of wild animals that harbor fleas in the environment.
2. If your pet is mainly outdoors and infested with fleas, then hire an exterminator to treat your yard. The over the counter products are very toxic and mainly ineffective.

Oral Anti-flea Medications

1. We have an oral product that is given once monthly with a full meal. It is called Program and it is also sold in combination with heartworm preventative and called Sentinel.
2. This product stops the life cycle of the flea by making its eggs unable to hatch.
3. This product does not kill the fleas. It does not harm your pet in any way.
4. You can use Program in conjunction with topical flea products as an "insurance policy" against the fleas. It will stop infestation in your house.
5. Comfortis: This is an oral pill for DOGS. It kills fleas and is given instead of topical flea medications. It does not kill ticks. It must be given with a full meal.