

Control Fleas on Your Pets

The cat flea, *Ctenocephalides felis*, is the most common flea infesting dogs, cats, and opossums in Los Angeles County. When humans come into close contact with infected fleas, they can become sick with a disease called typhus.



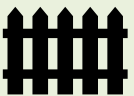
Treating Fleas

Successful flea control includes not only the treatment of infested pets, but also the thorough treatment of all areas where flea breeding is occurring. Any areas where the pet spends a lot of time will produce “hot spots” of infestation that require special attention. It’s important to remember flea larvae will develop only in protected micro-habitats where there’s a source of dried adult fecal pellets.



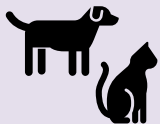
Control Fleas Indoors:

- Wash pet’s blankets and bedding material.
- Vacuum any pieces of furniture the pet lays on, including both sides of the seat cushions and any folds or pockets.
- Thoroughly vacuum and clean sites frequented by your pet: the location of food and water dishes, the litter box, resting and play sites.
- Empty the contents of the vacuum into a disposable bag, seal it, and dispose of the bag in the trash.
- Pesticides labeled for the control of fleas indoors can be used as a follow-up to physical cleaning controls; carefully follow the label directions.



Control Fleas Outdoors:

- Clean outdoor areas where your pet spends time: kennels, runs, dog houses, areas used for rest or elimination, and fence lines.
- Treat these areas with pesticides labeled for outdoor use after cleaning; carefully apply the product as directed on the label.
- Applications performed with pressurized spray cans provide the most consistent and thorough applications.
- Yards should be kept clear of heavy undergrowth, structures kept in good repair, and accumulated debris eliminated to reduce harborage (hiding places).



Control Fleas on Your Pets:

- Pets should be treated on the same day the home and yard are treated.
- Use flea shampoos and sprays, which can provide temporary control.
- Your veterinarian can provide topical spot treatment and edible treatment to stop the fleas from reproducing.

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