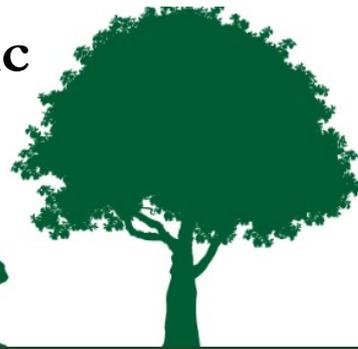


Damory Veterinary
Clinic
Damory Lodge
Edward Street
Blandford Forum
Dorset
DT11 7QT

Tel. 01258 452626

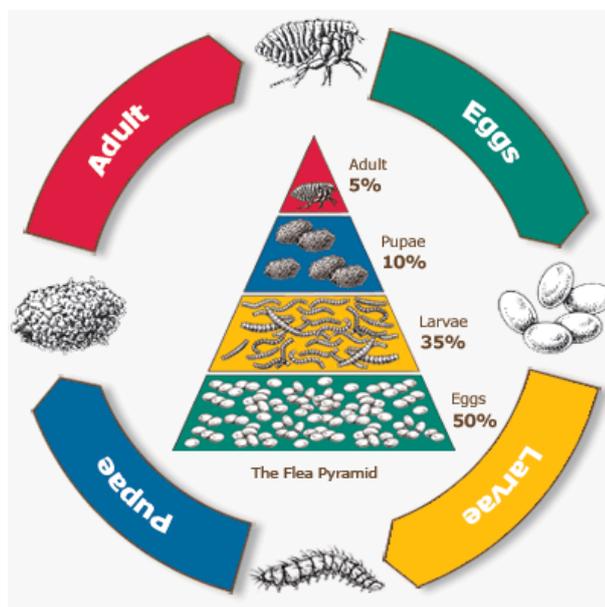
Damory Veterinary Clinic

Small Animal Department



FLEAS AND TICKS

Fleas can be a real nuisance; they also provide us with a challenge to treat and are the most common cause of skin problems in dogs and cats. In order to choose the best flea treatment for you it may help to explain a little about the life cycle of fleas and some of the problems they pose to you and your pet.



Adult fleas feed on blood. Heavy flea infestations cause a drain on your pet's blood resulting in anaemia. This is a serious problem for very young animals.

Some animals have a hypersensitivity (allergy) to components of flea saliva. This means that just a few flea bites can trigger an itchy skin reaction. In these cases the aim of treatment is to eradicate all fleas from the animal's environment.

Fleas can act as intermediate hosts (i.e. they are part of the life cycle) for certain tape worms. It is therefore important that regular worming is carried out along side routine flea treatment.

Female fleas have the capacity to lay up to 100 eggs per day. Some of these will fall off your animal's coat into the environment (upholstery, carpet, bedding etc) where they hatch into larvae. Larvae are susceptible to some flea treatments; however once they reach the pupae stage of their life cycle they are relatively resistant to all forms of flea treatment.

Fleas will happily survive inside your home in summer and winter (especially if you have central heating!).

Steps to ensure successful flea control:

- *Dogs and cats from the same household should be treated at the same time.*
- *Treatment should be continued throughout the year.*
- *Both the animal and its environment should be treated.*

Treatment of the home

We advise that you treat the places where your animal spends time i.e. bedding, carpets, wooden floors and car etc, with household insecticide sprays such as **Indorex**. Both these treatments last up to 12 months, targeting adult fleas, pupae, larvae and eggs. It takes up to 14 days for pupae to hatch, so there may be a delay of about 2 weeks before the results of spraying are noticed.

TREATMENT OF YOUR PET

Spot on Treatments

We have a range of monthly spot on treatments for treatment of ticks and fleas, some of which will also worm your pet at the same time.

We recommend that animals are not bathed or go swimming for at least 24 hours after application

Collars

The collars we have available are designed to kill fleas and ticks but in a collar format rather than a spot-on and will last 7 to 8 months. The collars are safe around children and can be kept on when the pet goes into water.

Spray Treatments

We have a non-aerosol, non-organophosphate spray, which can be used on pregnant animals and on puppies and kittens from 2 days old. It should last for up to 12 weeks in dogs and 8 weeks in cats, and can be effective in the control of ticks for up to 1 month. Bathing is not recommended for 48 hours before and after application.

Oral Medications

Oral medications are useful for animals that react to topical treatments and also where there are severe flea or tick infestations. We have various oral treatments that control fleas and ticks, lasting from one month up to three months.

Injection (for cats only)

An injectable treatment is available that provides 6 months cover and works in very much the same way as the tablet form. It can only be administered by a vet.