



Facts and Information

About Fleas

- 1) **Rule #1: Fleas can be Eliminated with Prescription Medication from your Veterinarian along with Proper Environmental Control.**
- 2) Flea eggs, white and about the size of a grain of sand, are laid on the pet's fur and roll off into the environment and hatch in one to 10 days. Once mature, larvae produce a sticky, silk-like cocoon that becomes coated with a debris that camouflages it; this stage lasts nine to 174 days. Adults emerge from the cocoon when stimulated by heat, vibrations, and carbon dioxide (CO₂). The entire life cycle lasts 12-140 days.
- 3) **Fleas are much better indoor parasites than outdoor parasites!**
The most significant areas of any flea infestation are the sheltered areas that your animal frequents (ie. your house).
- 4) Cat and dog flea species spend their entire adult lives on the pet; the adult cannot live off of the pet more than four days without a blood meal.
- 5) Egg production begins within 48 hours of the first blood meal, peaks at 50-60 eggs per day, and can last >100 days; a flea can produce >2000 eggs!!!
- 6) New adults must have a blood meal within two to three weeks of hatching; the lower the temperature and humidity, the quicker the flea dies.
- 7) Fleas consume 15 times their body weight with every blood meal. An infestation of 220 females consumes 10 percent of a 1-lb kitten's blood volume in one day. Most blood consumed is passed as partially digested feces ("flea dirt") --- essential food for larvae in the environment.
- 8) In Indiana, flea preventive medications such as Advantage and Revolution **must be used** every 30 days year round on all pets in your home to assure a flea free home.
- 9) If these products are obtained properly through our office, the effectiveness is very high. If these products are obtained from a source other than a veterinarian, neither the manufacturer nor this office can speak to their safety or effectiveness. The package clearly states that the medications are only to be sold and monitored by your veterinarian.