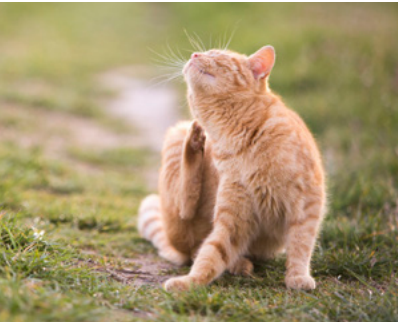


FLEAS



Fleas make pets and people uncomfortable, and can transmit worms to pets and sometimes to children.

Fleas lay 20 to 50 eggs each day, so flea problems in your home can get out of control quickly, especially in warm weather.

Adult fleas spend almost all of their time on an animal's body. If you haven't seen fleas, look for *flea dirt* (flea droppings) where your pet sleeps. These black specks contain blood and turn red when wet.

Tell your building manager if you see fleas or are getting flea bites. Do not use pesticide sprays or foggers (bug bombs).

Keep fleas off your pet

- If your pet has fleas or is often with other dogs or cats that may have fleas, **use a “spot-on” medication or pill** to kill fleas on your pet. Talk to your vet about what to use.
- **Use a flea comb often** to catch fleas crawling on your cat or dog. Drown fleas caught in the comb in a cup of warm soapy water and flush or pour down the drain. Make sure to comb well around the neck and base of the tail. Flea combs are available at pet stores.
- **Wash your pet with warm soapy water.** No need to use flea soap—a good bath with pet shampoo will work. Using a flea comb while your pet is lathered should get rid of most fleas on your pet.
- **Vacuum carpets, rugs, floors, and couches and chairs often** to pick up adult fleas, eggs, and the flea droppings that young fleas feed on. Clean cracks and crevices in floors and baseboards.
- **Wash pet bedding** in hot soapy water every week.



For more information on managing pests, go to www.ourwaterourworld.org/FactSheets.aspx



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