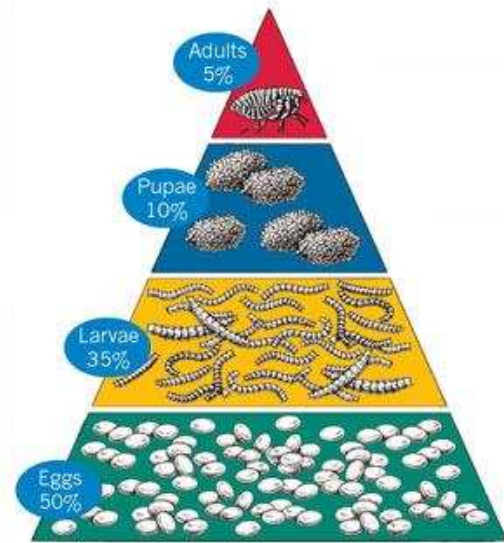


# BEAT THOSE FLEAS

Fleas are a nuisance for both you and your pet. Unfortunately fleas are very hardy critters so they can be extremely difficult to get rid of. Here are a few pointers to give you a fighting chance:

**1) Make sure you treat your pet with a good quality flea product that kills eggs, larvae and adult fleas** e.g. Advantage, Advantix, Advocate, Frontline Plus, Revolution. Most of the cheap flea treatments will kill adult fleas but this is only the tip of the ice berg. Each adult has the potential to lay thousands of eggs so if the flea has time to lay even just a few hundred before you kill it then you will still have a flea problem. Some flea products, e.g. Sentinel, just render a flea unable to lay eggs but don't actually kill the adult flea. While this will stop the breeding cycle it means your pet can still be bitten by fleas (not good for pets with flea allergy).



**2) Make sure your pet is COMPLETELY DRY before applying a top spot treatment** (the ones you squirt on the back of the neck). These treatments are usually made of oil based chemicals and they won't be able to enter your pets' skin cells and/or hair follicles if they are still wet (oil and water don't mix). Pets will often feel dry to the touch but can still be wet at skin level. Be especially careful not to apply treatment straight after a hydrobath.

**3) Treat every pet in your family.** It's very tempting to only treat one pet but your pets will access different parts of the house and yard so the untreated pet may be the source of the problem.

**4) Give your pet access to everywhere.** Fleas lay their eggs in the carpet, dirt, bedding etc (where it's dark and secure) so by allowing your pets to access certain areas in the house or yard then you are allowing for treated hair and skin cells to fall to the ground, which kills eggs and larvae before they develop into fleas.

**5) Treat every month** (or sooner if necessary) without fail. Most monthly flea products are only designed to last that long in your pet's system or on their skin. Some pets may even need to be treated sooner if they are groomed regularly (e.g. scratched, brushed, washed, hydrobathed) as this increases their loss of skin and hair which takes the flea chemical with it.

**6) Treat the environment if necessary.** If you have a big flea problem it is best to treat the bedding, carpets and dirt as well. Treating your pets will still work but you will get rid of the problem sooner if you hit it from all angles. Wash all bedding in hot water and/or air in direct sunlight, vacuum all floors and lounges and treat everywhere with an appropriate flea bomb/spray.

**7) Don't wash your pet.** If you must wash them, just use a soap free shampoo that will leave them clean and smelling nice. Flea shampoos will only kill adult fleas on your pet at the time of washing. Once your pet is dry, fleas will hatch and jump straight back on your pet.

**8) Remember that dogs and cats will scratch.** They are covered in hair that is always tickling their bodies so general scratching is ok. If your pet is obsessively scratching but you cannot see evidence of fleas then have your pet checked by a vet for an alternative diagnosis.

