

Fleas?

Don't let them irritate you!

The onset of warmer weather traditionally marks the beginning of the flea 'season'. However central heating and soft furnishings make ideal breeding grounds for fleas – all year round!

Although fleas are tiny – just 2mm in length – they are a major cause of irritation to both pets and their owners! Adult fleas spend the majority of their lives on our pets, feeding on blood and reproducing. Female fleas typically lay 30-60 or more eggs per day. These tiny white eggs fall off the coat of the animal and onto carpets and soft furnishings around the home.

The eggs develop into flea larvae, which in turn develop into pupae which can lie dormant before hatching out into adult fleas. In warm weather the entire life-cycle may be completed in as little as two weeks whilst, in colder weather, the pupae may remain dormant for many months before hatching.



Fleas survive by feeding on your pet's blood, often causing severe skin irritations and infections and occasionally anaemia. Fleas also carry tapeworm larvae and because our pets swallow fleas when grooming, they may become infected with tapeworms as a result.

The key to controlling fleas is to break their life-cycle. Vets have a range of safe and very effective flea and worm products, both for your pet and your home, and they are happy to advise you on the best form of flea control to suit your own requirements.

June is National Microchipping Month run by the Kennel Club and Petlog, to promote microchipping as the preferred method of permanent identification.

A microchip is a small implant (the size of a grain of rice) that is inserted into the skin between the shoulder blades of your dog, cat or rabbit. It contains a unique registration number that is entered onto an international database, and if your pet is found any vet or animal warden can use a reader to read the number, access the database and contact you to reclaim your pet.

Identity discs and collars come off and thousands of dogs and cats go missing every year and it is estimated that less than half of them are reunited with their owners, often because they cannot be identified.

By having your pet microchipped, you will give it the best chance to be identified and returned to you should it go missing.

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