



## Fleas! What Can I Do?

### 1. Start With the Pets

The flea life cycle is a tough thing to battle; most people with flea issues find that fleas seem to keep coming in waves, again and again, making the fight nearly impossible. It isn't. We'll agree that it is hard, and it takes a lot of work, but you can end your flea problem once and for all by adjusting to the life cycle and striking from multiple angles. We start with flea control on the pet because the pet is the blood source for the flea. Think of blood like fuel-- without it, the fleas can't live, so they die. Pretty simple, right? The best flea protection available on the market comes in the form of veterinarian-recommended topical flea products. We have products in-stock at our clinic that are easy to apply and affordable.

### 2. Take On The House

After treating your pets (everyone in the house) it's time to move on to the house itself. This is what pet owners report is the toughest part. The use of insecticidal foggers or "flea bombs" is the most effective method of removing the fleas from the household. Unfortunately, however, foggers cannot be used while people or animals (anything with a heartbeat) are in the house. Additionally, you won't find any friends or family members that will let you bring all of your flea-infested pets to their house for the few hours while you treat yours. Most pet owners set off the foggers after packing their pets into carriers, and simply spend the afternoon in the back yard, weather permitting.

**Note:** Each insecticidal fogger on the market carries its own instructions and warnings. Read fully the entire label before using any products. Often electronics need to be covered with plastic. Make sure to pay attention to square footage requirements... you will most likely need multiple cans of fogger for your home to be properly treated. Don't leave out rooms that your pets don't enter... fleas are much smaller and can go anywhere. That includes your basement, laundry room, bathrooms and even closets (open doors while fogging, then wash your clothing afterwards-- remember, the fleas could be in your clothing, too).

### 3. What's Next?

Once your living spaces are "bombed" with the foggers, open all the windows and let your house breathe. Vacuum all floor surfaces, and empty the contents of the bag or container into a trash bag outside, then immediately dispose of this bag. Flea eggs can hatch in your vacuum cleaner, starting the life cycle all over again.

**Repeat the process starting with Step 2 after two weeks to fully resolve your situation.  
Flea/tick treatments can be safely applied to your pet once a month, or every three weeks for serious infestations.  
Check the packaging of your chosen flea treatment for application instructions and safety tips.**