

# PARASITES FLEAS AND TICKS

Prevention is the best defense.



## Fleas

Though both are parasites, ticks and fleas are actually very different. To protect your pet from these unwanted guests, it's important to understand the differences between them, the warning signs your pet will exhibit and the diseases they spread.



## Ticks

- An insect that is wingless and has six legs.
- Prefers warm temperatures (like your home)
- Adults can live for more than 100 days and can lay up to 20 to 40 eggs per day for several weeks.
- They can live on the host (your pet) until they die.
- Can transmit bartonellosis and tapeworm; neither of which your pet would want to have.

- An arachnid with eight legs (like spiders)
- Can survive near-freezing temperatures.
- While some will complete their life cycle in just a few weeks, others can live up to 3 years.
- Can lay thousands of eggs at one time (then dies)
- Can transmit potentially deadly diseases, including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain fever.

## How Do I ...

### Know if my pet has fleas:

Most commonly noticed on a dog's abdomen, the base of the tail and the head.

Most commonly noticed around a cat's neck and the base of the tail.

Symptoms of fleas on your pet include:

- 🐾 Flea droppings in their coat/fur
- 🐾 Flea eggs (tiny, black grains)
- 🐾 Excessive scratching, chewing and licking at skin
- 🐾 Pale gums

### Look for and remove ticks:

Ticks can be hard to spot without regular inspections of your pet.

Most commonly noticed near the head, neck, ears and feet; though can be found anywhere on the body.

For safe removal of ticks from your pet:

- 🐾 Wear gloves and use tweezers
- 🐾 Keep your pet calm and steady
- 🐾 Pull the entire tick out (head and all) using a straight motion; do not twist!



Talk to your vet about a parasite prevention plan for your pet.

If you are unsure of how to properly remove a tick, please visit your veterinarian for safe and proper removal.

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