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How To Stop Your Cat Scratching – Get Rid Of Those Fleas

By Niall Kennedy

You know how annoying it can be when you have an itch, but you can't reach it to give it a scratch?

Well, when your cat has fleas it's like your problem, just multiplied a hundred times.

If your cat has fleas or ticks, you need to take action. If they are scratching or have irritated skin, your cats need you to bring this problem under control because it can become a much larger problem if you do not.

Even clean cats can end up with fleas. All it takes is a stray animal to come close enough to the cat. Or, the cat can pick them up outdoors as well. Even just one flea can leave many eggs and cause a full scale attack on your pet.

To stop them before they start, you can use a product such as Frontline or Advantix. These are pre measured liquid treatments that are applied directly to the cat's skin and coat. When fleas get onto the pet, these products kill them before they can lay eggs. Those who want preventative measures for keeping the cat safe should use these.

For most though, it takes seeing the fleas to get them to start fighting them. If you see tiny black or brown insects on your animal, these are no doubt that your cat is flea infested. If you do see them, realize that the problem is already a big problem.

What you need to do is make sure to check your pet for fleas all the time. You can do this with a flea comb. Carefully comb through the cat's hair and pay attention to the hair around the cat's head and his belly. These are the ideal places for fleas to hide including the ears, eyes and the nose. And, they like to burrow in the creases where the cat's legs and body meet.

When combing your pet, if you find a flea you know they are throughout his body. But, if you end up with a few black or brown specks, this too is a sign that they are hiding somewhere on the pet's body.

To find them, run your hands over the cat's body. Look for raised spots on him. If you find one or more, check it closely to see if it has little legs. If so the cat has ticks. You'll need to ask your vet

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about having the tick removed as you can not do this yourself without risking the tick's head staying behind in your pet's skin.

In order to get them under control, you'll need to use one of the liquid flea and tick treatments. You can also use flea or tick collars and baths as well. If the fleas are in your house, as they probably are, then you will need to use a powder or spray for the bedding and upholstered furniture too. As a last resort, you can use a flea and tick bomb in your home. But, in this case, the animals will need to stay out of your home for at least 24 hours.

Fleas are a serious concern and you need to keep them from affecting your pet. If your pet has them, also talk to your vet about treatments he can provide as these are professional strengths that can help. Before they make your pet sick, take measures at the first sign of trouble.

Niall Kennedy is a lifelong pet lover and has worked in several pet sanctuaries. Best Pet Health

Information is a resource that brings you information about many aspects cat health. You will also find great deals on

flea medication for cats

such as Frontline, Advantage and Revolution.

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Fleas - Spot Them, Stop Them, Kill Them

By Mary Amos

Introduction

Your cat is your best friend. She plays in the house, snuggles with you when it's cold and terrorizes the local wildlife. But whether your cat stays indoors or goes outdoors, she can be susceptible to fleas. While it's more likely that an outdoor cat will pick up fleas, don't feel safe if she's an indoor only cat. Fleas can catch a ride on your clothes and when they find your cat they can multiply very quickly.

Fleas are an inevitable annoyance that can be avoided and you can keep your cat protected with a little effort and vigilance.

The Signs

You need to keep an eye on your cat, especially in summer when your cat is more likely to socialize with other cats and pick up those little pests! Watch for your cat scratching around her neck more than she usually does. This may be due to collar irritation, (your cat does have a collar - right?), but it's

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more likely to be fleas if your cat has worn her collar for a while.

Another thing to watch for is more than normal grooming by your cat on her lower spine. The neck and lower spine are favorite places for fleas to hang out. A total give away is if you feel small bumps on your cat when you stroke her. If you do it's probably skin irritation caused by the saliva of the flea when it bites. It may also be a tick on your cat that will need to be removed. If you find that it is a tick, take your cat to the vet, don't try and remove it yourself.

If you're still not sure if your cat has fleas or not, stand her on a large piece of white paper and run a comb, (flea combs are ideal for this!), through your cat's hair and then check the paper. If you find small brown dots that turn red when wet then your cat has fleas. This is dried blood that the fleas excrete.

Prevention

Luckily for us prevention and cure has been made easy for cat owners with modern medicine. Today most flea prevention medications include a flea cure too. The most popular flea medications like Advantage® or Frontline Plus® are topical medications. When used regularly they will not only kill the adult fleas on your cat, they will also protect her from re-infection. Consult your vet for the best treatment for your cat.

If your cat has been infected with fleas it's a good idea to clean and vacuum the areas where your cat likes to sit and sleep. Wash all of the cat's bedding in very hot water to kill any fleas and eggs. Vacuum all of the carpets and curtains in the house, as we mentioned earlier fleas like to catch a ride on your clothes too. Finally if you're really brave and your cat trusts you, give her a bath. Good luck with that?

Cure

Fleas can live anywhere from 2 months to 2 years. The eggs lay dormant just waiting for a warm body to pass by so that they can hatch. They are not too particular about what warm body it is, which includes you! It's reasonably rare that you will be bitten though, fleas are species particular and will usually only bite by mistake.

You can find sprays that will kill and protect your carpets and curtains from fleas and ticks. In the main these are very effective. However if you do use a spray, make sure that you air the room afterwards, the vapors can be pretty toxic. Also make sure you spray the edges and seams of carpets as these areas are hard to vacuum and can be collection points for eggs.

Ideally you should talk to your vet to find out the best flea and tick control for your circumstances and your cat. There are various factors that determine what's best such as the climate you live in, the time of year, your cat's habits and activities and how she responds to the various available control methods.

Fleas and ticks are an annoyance and with some common sense and a good control regime they are a problem that can be easily managed and controlled.

Mary Amos is a cat lover and long time cat owner. Find more articles and resources about caring for your cat or kitten at

<http://www.catcareweb.com>



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