



CONSUMER SENSE

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My Dog Has Fleas!

By: Sue Gray, Extension Horticulturist

Fleas can thrive in our homes where they are out of sunlight, temperatures are above 70 degrees and humidity is sometimes high. This is also why we find flea "hot spots" in our summer yards in warm, moist shady areas.

Excessive self-grooming, scratching and scaly/scabby red spots near hind quarters are all flea indicators. Fleas spread disease, make animals miserable and cause flea allergy dermatitis and infections.

Prevention is kinder to our animals and more cost effective for us.

Confirm the presence of fleas using a fine tooth comb over head and tail areas. Immediately dip the comb in soapy water to release caught fleas

and/or flea feces, also called "flea dirt". Treat for fleas by first treating the pet, then the areas where they sleep. It is neither sensible nor environmentally sound to spray the whole yard. Fleas easily return on squirrels and other wildlife.

Repeated sprays of standard adulticide flea products only get the tip of the flea iceberg. Treat at the bottom of that pyramid with products that break the life cycle.

First: Make the pet comfortable by using a pet shampoo that has products to help relieve itching.

Next, treat them with a flea preventive that kills both adult fleas and their offspring. Products that effectively control fleas

are insect growth regulators that are a spot-on treatment, available through veterinarians. Some common trade names are Advantix, Frontline Plus, and Revolution. Ask your veterinarian for a product that will kill flea adults, flea larvae and flea eggs. Be sure to weigh your animal and buy the correct dosage, reading and following all label directions, including bathing instructions.

These simple once-a-month products control all phases of fleas.. They are simple and effective for a cost of about \$15.00 per month.

Next: Vacuum sleeping areas and wash pet bedding in hot soapy water. Dispose of bag after vacuuming
Heavy Infestations: Fleas

hopping on people indicate a high population. Use an indoor product labeled for adult fleas to provide quick knock-down, followed up with something to break the life cycle. Kill fleas in the egg stage using the active ingredient, methoprene. Use only indoors as this is less effective outside due to breakdown from sunlight. One adult flea may be controlled by many different insecticides, but what remains can be hundreds of flea eggs and larvae burrowed in carpeting and tile floor cracks. Combination adult/larval/egg products are available in retail markets. Products with pyriproxyfen prevent flea development in outdoor areas.

Based on: "Flea and Tick Control Tips for Dogs and Cats"

www.tulsamastergardeners.org/insects/fleas_ticks.shtml

Home Cleaning Solutions for Pet Owners

By: Charlotte Richert, Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Educator

Homemade cleaning products made from ingredients you have in your kitchen often rival those you can buy in stores and can save you money. You can't go wrong with a supply of **baking soda, vinegar, and water.**

Baking soda although mildly abrasive, is possibly the most basic and most useful home cleaning product. It won't scratch most surfaces and has natural deodorizing properties making it a perfect choice in the home. For stubborn stains, make a paste of baking soda and water and let it sit for 15 minutes before scrubbing. To freshen your carpet, simply sprinkle plain baking soda into the carpet, let set for 10 - 15 minutes, then vacuum.

Most urine stains can be removed if caught within the first couple of hours. Excess liquid should be blotted with a clean, white, absorbent material. Pour water on the area and then sponge as dry as possible or use a wet vac to remove liquid. Mix a teaspoon of neutral detergent or non-alkaline detergent (such as a hand dishwashing liquid) with a cup of lukewarm water. Work small amounts of the solution into the pile with your finger. Sponge and flush with water. Sponge again, followed with a vinegar rinse of equal parts of white vinegar and water. Then dampen the area and allow it to remain for a few minutes. Sponge as dry as possible. Place a one-half inch layer of dry, absorbent material over the area and weight it down to absorb extra moisture. If the absorbent material becomes wet, replace it. Dry for eight hours before brushing the area with your hand, to blend the pile into the surrounding carpet.

Keeping Your Home Clean

- Brush your pets daily. The more hair that is removed from brushing, the less you deal with in the home.
- Limit the areas of your home where your pet is allowed.
- Vacuum daily to keep pet hair and smells from settling in your home.
- Keep rugs by the entrances to your home.
- Use masking tape or sticky rollers to pick up unwanted pet hair.

Dog Food Tips



Nutrition of dogs can be supplied in an adequate manner through the use of commercial diets available in most food or pet stores. Every dog owner can provide superior nutrition without becoming a nutrition specialist. By using common sense and a basic knowledge of his pet's nutrition requirements a dog owner can maintain his dog in desired flesh condition.

The average dog, at maintenance, should be fed a dog food containing 21 to 25 percent protein. This level of protein will provide a safety margin for dogs that have higher than normal protein needs.

Energy requirements of dogs vary depending on size, age, level of activity and environment temperature. Hard working dogs, puppies (rapidly growing) and lactating females will require more food and up to three times more energy than similar dogs at maintenance. Most energy in dog foods is supplied by carbohydrate (starch) and fats. Starches, generally from grain sources (corn, barley, oats) are the most inexpensive form of energy. Starches are poorly

utilized by dogs unless being cooked first. Most grains are extruded (a heat and pressure treatment) which allows these carbohydrate sources to be well utilized by dogs.

Fats provide a concentrated source of energy and essential fatty acids. Fat also provides a taste factor and is a carrier for vitamins A,D,E and K. As a rule-of-thumb the dog food you buy should contain about eight percent fat.

How much to feed your dog? It varies as a dog's individual needs can vary greatly. Most dogs fed at liberty will consume the quantity of food and calories needed to maintain their body weight. Regularly review your dog's physical condition and adjust feed amounts as needed. A feeding starting point is to feed 0.5 oz. /pound of body weight/day for dog's not working hard.

Commercial dog foods basically are sold in three forms; dry, semi-moist and canned. Dry dog foods are generally 90% dry matter. Dry dog foods are the most inexpensive dog food form. They supply nutrients efficiently, require few preservation agents and can be purchased economically.

Semi-moist dog foods contain about 25-35% moisture content. To protect against spoilage anti-bacteria and anti-fungal agents such as sucrose, sorbates and propylene glycol are added to the food.

Canned dog food will contain about 75% moisture. Canned foods come in two types, either all meat or those formulated to be nutritionally complete.

The all meat types are made-up of meat by-products and animal fat and do not contain supplements. These are not nutritionally balanced diets and long term use can lead to nutritional deficiencies, disease and death. Products of this type should only be used to enhance palatability of other dog foods that are nutritionally complete.

Dry, semi-moist and canned foods vary greatly in the amount of dry matter content. Dry dog food generally is 90 percent dry matter meaning it contains only 10 percent water. Canned food is 25 percent dry matter, so it contains 75 percent water.

To feed a Dalmatian for a year if he eats one pound of dry food per day at a cost of .33/pound is \$120.45 per year. Feeding 1.26 pounds of a semi-moist food at \$1.36 per pound daily will cost \$625.46 per year. If you feed 3.6 pounds of canned food per day at a cost of .79 the yearly cost is \$1038.06. Dog food containing a high percent of water is an expensive means of supplying nutrients to your dog. Water can be supplied much more economically from the water tap.

The Dollar\$ and Cents of Feeding A Dog

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By Bruce Peverley, Extension Agriculture Educator

Family Emergency Plan Should Include Pets

By: Don Stotts, OSU Agriculture Communications

Pet owners need to assemble an emergency preparedness kit before an emergency situation occurs. Supplies such as pet food, bottled water, a photo of the animal, a strong leash and muzzle and the name and phone number of an emergency contact should be compiled and stored in a sturdy, water repellent, easy-to-carry container such as a duffle bag, large backpack or a plastic container with handles.

Pet owners who must leave the home because of an electricity outage will need to take their pets too. Pets that are left behind in disaster situations can be injured or lost, so it is important to plan ahead.

Have proper identification on pets such as collars with ID tags that include the owner's name and phone number. Some pet owners may opt to have a microchip implanted in their pet by a veterinarian.

Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets. Check around in your area at different shelters and inquire about pet acceptance. If a shelter isn't available and you need to stay in a hotel

for a few days, keep a list of the nearby hotels that will allow pets. Other emergency shelter options for pets include a boarding facility or the home of friends or family.

Make sure your family emergency plan includes the care and safety of all your pets.

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