



In need of some assistance with a flea infestation?

# Call us today

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Flies • Fleas • Moths • Ants • Foxes • Birds • Spiders

# FLEAS: Pest Advice



## What do fleas look like?

These miniscule bugs are tiny but tenacious, with powerful back legs built for catapulting their bodies through the air and onto your furry friends. At 3mm long and reddish brown in colour, these wingless pests have narrow and flat bodies so they can move speedily through an animal's fur.

## What do fleas eat?

Blood is on the menu of this particular parasite, with your pets an easy target for the agile flea, although they are partial to snacking on humans if presented with the opportunity. Flea bites manifest as tiny red or dark spots on skin, surrounded by a small, slightly swollen redness which often becomes uncomfortably itchy.

## Where do fleas live?

Fleas thrive in warmth and humidity and live in high grass, sand, sheds and debris until they're able to catch a ride to your home via your pets. Adult fleas are found only on live hosts – such as cats, dogs and rodents, whereas flea larvae prefer dark and dusty spaces such as floors and in carpet fibre. Flea eggs, laid by adult fleas, are first found in your pet's fur but are subsequently easily spread to bedding, furniture, carpet and even appliances as your pet moves around your home.



### DID YOU KNOW?

A flea can jump 30,000 times without stopping.



## Are fleas bad for my health?

Fleas can pose a serious health hazard, as certain species can transmit diseases such as typhus, bubonic plague, spotted fever and tapeworms to humans. However, it should be noted that in the UK, human infection is rare due to vaccinations and hygiene standards. The most common risk is a mild allergic reaction, such as a rash and in some cases, secondary infection due to scratching. In pets, fleas can cause your animal companions severe discomfort and distress through a large number of bites in a short period, which can progress to skin irritations, fur loss and anaemia.

If you are concerned about flea bites – either in regards to yourself or your pet – you should seek medical advice by contacting an appropriate professional, such as a doctor or veterinarian.

## What are the signs of an infestation?

Although fleas are theoretically visible to the naked eye, they're also incredibly nimble and lightning quick, which means they can jump out of your line of sight before you've even had time to blink. Instead, look for signs of flea bites.

Your canine companions and feline friends might start to excessively scratch, lick or gnaw at their fur, and you might notice reddened patches of skin with rows of dark bites. Take a close look in their fur to see if you're able to spot moving little dark pin-prick dots. In humans, keep

an eye out for rows of minuscule red or dark spots of skin, accompanied by itching or eczema.

## How can I prevent an infestation?

As pets are most susceptible to fleas and are often how fleas are brought into your home, you should use a monthly spot-on treatment on your pets, as well as washing their bedding and toys weekly at a high temperature. Vacuum regularly, paying particular attention to low-traffic areas such as corners and under furniture, as that's where flea larvae like to hide.

## How to get rid of a flea infestation

Due to their tiny size and ability to breed quickly, flea infestations can spread very rapidly throughout your home and DIY de-infestation is not recommended. Flea infestations are best tackled by a professional as a proper de-infestation is a complex process, requiring skill, expertise and professional treatments such as flea specific insecticide and flea traps.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The collective name for a group of fleas is a swarm.

