

## FLEAS!

You must act very, very fast. You must be very thorough though. Everything must be done the same day and every pet with fur must be treated.

You can get the drops that go on the back of the neck to kill the fleas. When a pet has been treated with this product, any flea that bites him dies. The inexpensive products do not work that well and will not kill all the fleas. The better products kill fleas quickly. (Read the directions, do not use the drops within 24 hours of shampooing.) Products safe for ferrets are Revolution, Frontline II and Advantage II \_for cats only\_.

Spray some home pest spray in a bowl. Search for any fleas on the pet, even if they look dead. Remove every flea and put it in the bowl of home pest spray to kill it. It's easiest to use a flea comb to do this.

Use a good quality home pest spray. Spray the flooring of the entire house. Move clothing, furniture and anything that is easily moved and spray under it and be sure to spray inside the closets, pantry, etc.

If the fleas are really bad, you should consider using foggers in the house. If you use them, be sure to use enough. Every nook and cranny, including inside closets and under beds has to be able to be reached to be effective. If you put one fogger in the hall between three rooms, you can't expect it to reach everywhere and then the fleas have places to get away.

The pets should be removed from the house when you spray. If you can't, put them in a room that is not going to be sprayed. Once you let them out of the room, spray that room and don't let them in there. If you fog, you \_must\_ remove the pets from the house. It is too risky to leave them in the house.

Before you fog or spray, vacuum the house very well. Then empty the canister or bag into the trash, using flea spray on the debris so as to kill any fleas you may have vacuumed up. Then tie the bag shut tightly and throw away.

You need to wash any bedding or anything the pets have come in contact with (bed sheets, pillow cases, etc.) in hot water and with bleach to kill any fleas that may have imbedded themselves and any larvae or eggs. (If the bedding isn't white, you can still use bleach, just use ¼ cup. At that strength, it is still a disinfectant, just not a whitener. I use it that way all the time.)

A few hours after spraying or fogging, you should run the vacuum again. This will pick up most dead fleas and any that have not been completely killed, as well as more larvae and eggs.

After the initial spraying / fogging of the house, it should be safe to bring the pets back. However, they should be removed from the house when you go through the second and third sprayings. Also, check the pets thoroughly to be sure they don't have any, not even one, fleas on them. All it takes is one to get the whole cycle started again.

You have to spray for fleas outside as well. There are products to spray outside that will not harm wildlife, so check into that. If you have squirrels that come in your yard, do what you can to discourage them, but be aware you will always have flea problems when there are squirrels around. If they don't come in your yard but go in your neighbor's, it's the same difference; the fleas will travel.

The biggest mistake people make when treating for fleas is to not treat often enough. Flea eggs are not affected much by any product. Once the eggs hatch out in ten days, the entire cycle starts all over again.

Ten days later you must spray the house and yard for fleas again. This will catch the larvae as they are hatching from the eggs. It will also catch the larvae that weren't initially killed before they begin laying eggs of their own. This is the most important time. Be diligent again about spraying everywhere. You don't have to be as diligent about vacuuming before and after or washing all the bedding, though it's not a bad idea to go ahead and wash the main bedding in hot water and bleach again.

To be on the safe side, treat again ten days after that (20 days after the 1st time). After that, until we get into completely cold weather, you should be safe treating every 30 days. Once warm weather comes around, get a head start on it by treating right off the bat and treating regularly every 30 days.