

FLEA & TICK PREVENTION IN DOGS AND CATS

Discovering that your furry friend has fleas or ticks can be upsetting for everyone involved. Your pet is feeling uncomfortable, and you're worried about their health. The good news is that infestations can often be prevented with a few proactive steps.

Let's take a look at some common treatment and prevention options:



Oral Treatments

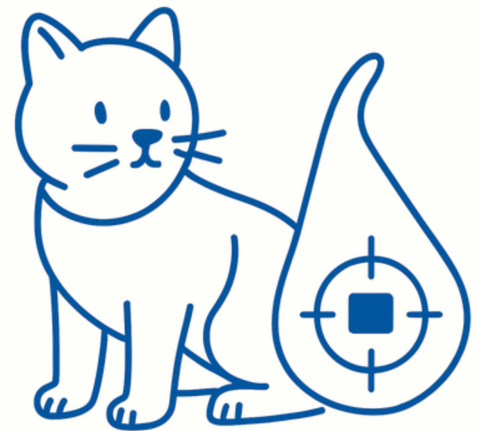
Oral treatments typically come in the form of chewables or pills and are often more effective than topical options. These medications are absorbed into your pet's bloodstream and begin working quickly. According to a study published in *Veterinary Parasitology*, some oral medications are up to 99.9% effective.

Before starting any medication, consult your veterinarian to determine the best option for your dog or cat. Common FDA-approved oral flea and tick preventatives include:

- Lufenuron
- Spinosad
- Nitenpyram

Topical Treatments

Topical treatments—also known as “spot-on” medications—are applied to the skin between your pet's shoulder blades, where they can't lick it off. These treatments usually last about a month and some formulas not only kill but also repel fleas and ticks. Topicals can be a great option for pets with sensitive stomachs or those who are picky eaters. However, they may not be ideal for dogs that swim frequently or require frequent bathing. Here are some common ingredients found in topical products:



- Fipronil – Spreads through your pet's body oils within a day and is released over time (typically a month). Approved by the EPA for use on both cats and dogs.
- Imidacloprid – Kills adult fleas as well as larvae. Also EPA-approved for use on both cats and dogs.
- Pyrethroids (not safe for cats) – Derived from chrysanthemum flowers and popular among those seeking natural options. Synthetic versions are more stable and longer-lasting. Important: [Pyrethroids are extremely toxic to cats and not approved by the EPA for feline use.](#) They should be used with caution on [small dogs and never in households with cats.](#)