

PetPeople Pet Care Center

# Flea and Tick Control

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keywords:

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# Flea & Tick Control



Warm weather can be a frustrating time for pet owners as their pets and homes are hit by a pesky flea invasion. One minute your dog or cat is scratching itself, and the next your house is infested with fleas. Once fleas have infested your home, trying to get rid of them can be an unpleasant, tricky process. Left without treatment, fleas can become a major health concern for your pet. There are many products available, but it's hard to decide which to use. The best solution is to prevent infestation in the first place, or at least catch and treat the problem in its early stages before a full blown infestation occurs.

## HEALTH CONCERNS

While dogs and cats can live with fleas on them, fleas can cause great discomfort and pose a serious threat to their health. The longer left



untreated, the higher chance your pet will develop further illness or injury. Particularly for young animals, adult fleas feeding on their blood can result in anemia, weakening the puppy or kitten sometimes to the point of death. Fleas can also carry the larval stage of tapeworm, which your pet can become infested with by

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accidentally eating fleas while grooming themselves. Humans can be affected by fleas too - once they have made themselves at home in our environment, we may find them jumping around our ankles leaving painful and itchy bites.

## CATCH THE PROBLEM EARLY

The earlier you spot a flea invasion and begin to treat it the better. If you spot the problem early on, chances are you can stop a full blown infestation. If you notice your pet scratching itself more than usual, check their skin and coat for signs of fleas. In the beginning stages it can be hard to identify that your pet has fleas, and can especially hard to spot in a pet with darker fur. Live fleas are an obvious sign, but if you can't find any live fleas you can also check for 'flea dirt'. Flea dirt is actually the flea's excrement of your pet's blood - it

is small and black, and looks like a fine layer of dirt.

Groom your pet with a fine-tooth comb, paying special attention to the area at the base of the tail - a favorite





place for fleas to reside. After combing, place the hair and dirt removed on a damp white paper towel - the black 'dirt' will turn red as the dried blood regains its moisture. If you see this, this is a sure sign there are fleas present!

## HOW TO TREAT

### TOPICAL TREATMENTS

There are many topical treatments available, but many veterinarians recommend Frontline Plus.

#### Frontline



Frontline is a topical medication applied once a month which treats and prevents fleas and ticks. It kills all stages of fleas - the eggs, the larvae, and the adults, within 24 hours of application. It also kills all stages of brown dog ticks, American dog ticks, lone star ticks, deer ticks, (which may carry lime disease), and chewing lice. It is important to note that Frontline is not a repellent - fleas can still jump on your pet even if it has Frontline applied.

🐾 Kills fleas that come in contact with pet within 12 hours

🐾 Kills ticks that come in contact with pet within 48 hours



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- Apply directly to skin between shoulder blades
- Waterproof and will last through swimming and bathing – however it is recommended you do not bathe your pet 48 hours before or after applying, or you risk reducing the efficacy
- Safe for puppies and kittens, eight weeks and older

## IMPORTANT:

It is important to use the recommended size and dosage for your pet - Frontline does not guarantee the product when not used at the correct dosage. For this reason, do not split larger doses among smaller pets. It is also very important not to use dog frontline on cats - they have different dosages and may be ineffective or harmful if used incorrectly.

## Revolution

revolution™

Revolution is another topically applied flea control product. Because it also contains a heartworm preventative, it must be sold only through your veterinarian.



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## ORAL TREATMENTS

### Capstar



Capstar is an orally administered tablet that provides fast flea relief - it begins working within 30 minutes of dosing. Capstar can be used in conjunction WITH Frontline if a pet currently has fleas. A single dose of Capstar will kill adult fleas on the pet - if your pet gets re-infested, it is safe to give another dose as often as once per day. Capstar is remarkably safe and effective, and you can literally see fleas falling off your pet within the first hour of giving.

- Orally administered tablet
- Kills only adult fleas
- Begins working in 30 minutes
- Safe for puppies and kittens four weeks and older, and weigh two pounds or more

**TIP:** If your pet is infested with fleas, a good way to quickly get rid of them is to use a dose of Capstar, PLUS a dose of Frontline. The Capstar will start killing the adult fleas within 30 minutes, and the Frontline will then kill the eggs and

## Flea &

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Kills Adult Fleas	Yes
Controls Flea Development	Yes
Kills Ticks (Lyme Disease vectors)	Yes
Repels & Kills Mosquitoes (Heartworm, West Nile Virus carriers)	Yes
Application	Apply Topically
Dosage	Monthly
Minimum Age	For Dogs 6 months & older
Active Ingredients	Permethrin & Methoprene IGR

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larvae to prevent future re-infestation, as well as act as a preventative for one month. If your pet has fleas and you ONLY use Capstar, chances are they will just keep getting re-infested, so you must use it with a preventative such as Frontline.

## Program



An orally administered flea control tablet which does **not** kill adult fleas. It works by controlling flea development, keeping juvenile fleas from maturing into biting adult fleas. Since it is not effective against adult fleas or ticks, it is best used only as a preventative in low risk areas.

## Tick Product Comparison Chart

Advantage®	K9 Advantix	Frontline®	Frontline Plus®	Program®	Capstar
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Apply Topically	Apply Topically	Apply Topically	Apply Topically	Oral Pill	Oral Pill
Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Once
For Dogs > 7 wks	For Dogs 7 wks & older	For Dogs 8 wks & older	For Dogs 8 wks & older	For Dogs & Cats, 6 wks & older	For Dogs & Cats 4 wks, 2 lbs or more
Imidacloprid	Permethrin & Imidacloprid	Fipronil	Fipronil & Methoprene IGR	Lufenuron	Nitenpyram

Additional charges for an office visit frequently apply if you purchase from your veterinarian. Frontline® & Frontline Plus® are registered trademarks of Merial. Advantage® is a registered trademark of the Bayer Corp. Program® is a registered trademark of Novartis.



## TREAT THE PET - AND THE HOME

A Topical treatment such as Frontline is **ALWAYS** recommended if a pet currently has fleas. Treating only the environment won't work if the pet is not also treated. There are a variety of sprays, powders and bombs designed to rid homes of fleas – and if there is a flea infestation, the house and/or yard should also be treated.

Many of these can be highly toxic and contain harsh chemicals, so they should be used sparingly or not at all. Many less toxic alternatives are now available in the form of area sprays and powders. Look for powders containing boric acid or diatomaceous earth as a greener alternative.

### Other Flea Control Methods

Other management tools include flea shampoos and sprays. The Natural Chemistry Pet & Area Spray is effective and safer than other pesticide sprays, and can be used both on the pet and in areas where the pet lives - bedding, carpet etc. For a shampoo, the Natural Chemistry Flea Shampoo is recommended. It is also safer than other pesticide based shampoos or dips. These two products are also safe for use on puppies and kittens over the age of 12 weeks.

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Some products not highly recommended - flea dips, flea collars, or pesticide based shampoos. While these may kill the adult fleas on the dog at the time, they generally do not offer any extended protection or prevention and the dog will probably get fleas again. They also have a high pesticide content, which is unhealthy for the dog and handler. These harsh shampoos can be hard on the skin and coat, causing dryness and continued itching even after fleas are gone. Flea collars are generally ineffective at prevention, and will not get rid of fleas if a dog has them.

Whichever product you choose to use, good management practices are very important. Vacuum daily - be sure to throw the vacuum bag away (out of the house) each time, as fleas can crawl out of the bag. Keep the yard well maintained and keep the grass cut short. Limit your dog's exposure to time outside or to areas with a high risk of re-infestation.



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## Environmental Management

Total, effective flea control means that you must kill adult fleas on your pet, prevent eggs from hatching on them or in the surrounding environment, and exterminate flea infestations from your home. You must continue the process, sometimes repeating steps in order to prevent a re-infestation. Simply put, no thorough flea treatment excludes the treatment of the home - you can get rid of all the fleas on your cat or dog, but leaving the indoor environment untreated will allow eggs to hatch and the fleas will make a come back.

## HEARTWORM PREVENTION

What about heartworm prevention? Many customers come in looking for products like Heartgard Plus, or Revolution. We cannot sell these products because they contain medication to kill heartworm microfilaria, and can be dangerous or even deadly given to dogs that have heartworm. Dogs should not be put on a heartworm preventative without a negative heartworm test from their veterinarian. You must get this product from a veterinarian.



## FLEA & TICK QUICK FACTS

### What is Frontline Plus and what does it protect against?

Frontline Plus is a topical insecticide that disperses over the pet's body via the pet's natural oils. It will kill 100% of flea eggs, flea larvae, and adult fleas within 12 hours of contact with your treated pet, and ticks within 48 hours of contact with your treated pet.

### How do I apply Frontline Plus?

Snap open applicator, then place the tip through your pet's hair to the skin between the shoulder blades. Squeeze the applicator and apply the entire liquid contents in a single spot onto your pet's skin. Try to get as much as possible on the skin, not on the pet's fur. It may be necessary to separate multiple pets until the product is dry so they don't lick the product off each other.

### What is Capstar and what is it effective against?

Capstar is an orally administered tablet that begins working within 30 minutes. A single dose of Capstar will kill only the adult fleas on your pet. It is safe for puppies and kittens four weeks and older, weighing two pounds or greater. If your pet has fleas, it can be used in conjunction with Frontline to get rid of the all stages of fleas

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as soon as possible. Capstar is not a flea preventative, nor is it effective against ticks.



**What do I use if I just want to use a monthly preventative to keep my pet from getting fleas?**

Frontline Plus, used once a month, will keep your pet protected from a flea and tick infestation.

**My pet currently has fleas, what products do I use?**

If your pet just has a few fleas, treating the pet with a combination of Capstar and Frontline should be enough to get rid of the fleas. If there is a heavy infestation, the environment should also be treated using a product with boric acid powder or other environmentally friendly flea treatment.

**I have been using Frontline Plus, but I still see fleas in my home or on my pet - why?**

The fleas you see most likely started as flea eggs that were deposited in the environment before you began using Frontline. Consecutive monthly applications of Frontline will assist in the elimination of an indoor flea life cycle, and treating the environment may be necessary to help break the life cycle and rid the environment of fleas.

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## How do I treat a flea infestation?

1. Treat the pet with an oral and/or topical medication such as Capstar or Frontline. All pets in household must be treated, even indoor dogs and cats that don't go outside.
2. Treat the environment - Use a boric acid powder or another environmental control to keep fleas eggs from hatching and re-infesting your pet. Vacuum frequently and keep grass cut short to minimize flea populations.
3. Repeat as needed! Flea infestations can take time to get under control, so keep treating your pet and the environment until they are no longer present.

## Can I apply Frontline Plus to puppies or kittens?

Frontline may be applied to dogs and cats as young as 8 weeks of age.

## Can I split up a larger dosage among smaller dogs/or cats?

Frontline does not recommend splitting dosages, or guarantee the product when not used as directed. It is important not to split





a larger dose among small dogs. It is very important not to use dog Frontline on cats – it is a different dosage and can be ineffective or harmful if used incorrectly.

## Is Frontline Plus water-proof?

Frontline Plus is water-proof and effective even after swimming, bathing, or grooming. However it is recommended NOT to bathe 48 hours before or after application, and it is also recommended to use a soap-free shampoo while using Frontline, such as Earthbath Oatmeal & Aloe, or Buddy Wash.

## Is Frontline Plus safe?

Frontline is not systemically active and has few noted side effects. Individual sensitivities, while rare, may occur after using any pesticide product. Since Frontline products are topical, some pets may experience temporary irritation at the site of product application. If signs persist, or become more severe within a few days of application, consult your veterinarian promptly.

## Is the Frontline Plus PetPeople sells the same as what a veterinarian sells?

Yes, our product is the same product a veterinarian sells.



veterinarian sells.

## Do Frontline products have an expiration date?

Frontline products do not carry an expiration date. Frontline recommends storing the products at room temperature and keeping them sealed in their original packaging. If stored under these conditions, Frontline products will not expire.

## Does PetPeople sell Heartworm preventative such as Heartgard or Revolution?

We do not sell any heartworm preventive. Your pet must have a negative heartworm test from your veterinarian before a preventative is administered, as giving a preventative if your pet is heartworm positive can be dangerous or even deadly. You must get this product through your veterinarian.



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We at PetPeople are a group of dedicated and passionate pet people. We are so enthusiastic to engage our customers, exchange information, and work together to solve common pet problems. We hope you will continue to come to us with questions, problems or situations regarding your pets' care. It is our goal to be a partner with you and your veterinarian in the health and well-being of your pet.

*We Care*

While we are happy to advise you and share our knowledge with you, we would never propose that our recommendations be used instead of consulting with your veterinarian about any concerns or issues. You know your pet better than anyone, and should always use your best judgement regarding obtaining the best care for your pet.

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