



Fall 2018
Volume 1

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Pet News Quarterly

Blue River Vet Clinic Open for Business!

As many of you know, Blue River Veterinary Clinic, PA opened its doors officially on July 23, 2018. We are currently in our third month of operation, and are excited to be serving the Marshall and surrounding counties' communities.

Blue River's main focus will be on small animal medicine, surgery, and preventative care. We are a full service clinic with boarding, grooming, and home pick up services available. Please feel free to call and ask about our many services.

If you have not already had a chance to come visit, stop in any time to see the new clinic. Dr. Porter and the staff are always ready to show you around and answer any questions.

Check out our website: www.bluerivervetclinic.com

That Pesky Pest..... the FLEA

Why does it seem that Fall is the worse time of year for fleas??

There may be several reasons for this. One of the biggest reasons is that fleas have had all spring and summer to reproduce. Did you know that a female flea can lay up to 40-50 eggs a day? This can add up to several hundred eggs (if not closer to a thousand depending on the length of survival) from one female flea! If your pet has not been on some kind of flea control or preventative, you often have a very **large** issue by the end of summer.

The biggest question is, what can be done to control fleas on and around your pets? The best thing that can be done is give any pet you have some kind of flea preventative. There are multiple ones available, some topical (applied to the pet's skin), and some that are oral. Some preventatives last a day, a month or 12 weeks. There are so many choices. The best place to get advice on which one to use is your veterinary clinic. The Veterinarian and staff have gone through training, and understand how each product works and how it should be used.

Several of the following articles will talk about different flea topics, but remember this....the easiest way to avoid a flea infestation is to prevent one by keeping your pet on a flea preventative for at least 8 to 12 months out of the year.

25% Discount on Grooming Services
Bring in this coupon and you will receive 25% off any grooming service.
This includes: nails, bath, comb out, and haircut.
(Limit one coupon per customer. Expires 12-31-18)



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Did you know??

- One adult female flea can lay close to 1000 eggs in her life-time.
- Fleas do not like to jump from one animal to another.
- Fleas survive in temperature 55 to 90°F and 50-92% humidity.
- Pets can have allergies to the flea bites.



Why use a Flea Preventative?

If you have ever had to deal with a flea infestation in your home, you already know one of the major reasons. It is so much easier to prevent a flea infestation than to try to get rid of one!

Although there are many arguments as to why a pet doesn't need a preventative. Such as: "We treat our yard", "My cat never goes outside", "My dog only goes out for a couple of minutes and then is right back in." The fact is that you may treat your yard, but you have very little control over any wildlife or stray animals that venture through it. Your cat may not ever go outside, but if you have a dog, they do. Most people occasionally like to take their dogs on walks, and not every yard or place you walk through, or by, has been treat-

ed for fleas.

The only guaranteed way to prevent a flea infestation is to keep your pet on a preventative during the months that are warm enough for a flea to survive. The flea's life cycle (p. 3), from egg to adult, likes the temp to be between 55-90°F and 50-92% humidity. North Central to Eastern Kansas falls into this category almost 9 months out of the year. Most homes are within this temperature range all year round.

Other reasons to prevent fleas on your animals is the discomfort from fleas biting and feeding, and contracting tapeworms from the ingestion of a flea while the animal is grooming. Some pets are actually very allergic to flea bites, and develop Flea Allergy Dermatitis (pg 4).

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." -Benjamin Franklin

Preventative Options

Topicals (apply to skin):

1 month:

- Frontline Gold (Dogs and Cats)
- Cheristin (Cats)
- Revolution (Dogs and Cats)

3 months:

- Bravecto (Cats and Dogs)

Chewables:

1 month:

- Nex Gard (Dogs)

3 months:

- Bravecto (Dogs)

Tablets:

24 hour (very rapid kill):

- Capstar (Dogs and Cats)

1 month:

- Comfortis (Dogs and Cats)

..... A Flea Infestation!

Ok, so you have a flea infestation, now what? It is a common misconception that only people that have unclean houses will have fleas. This is most definitely not true. A flea is just looking for a nice warm, humid environment to live. The only common factor in homes with flea infestations is that the home has at least one pet that is not on a flea preventative.

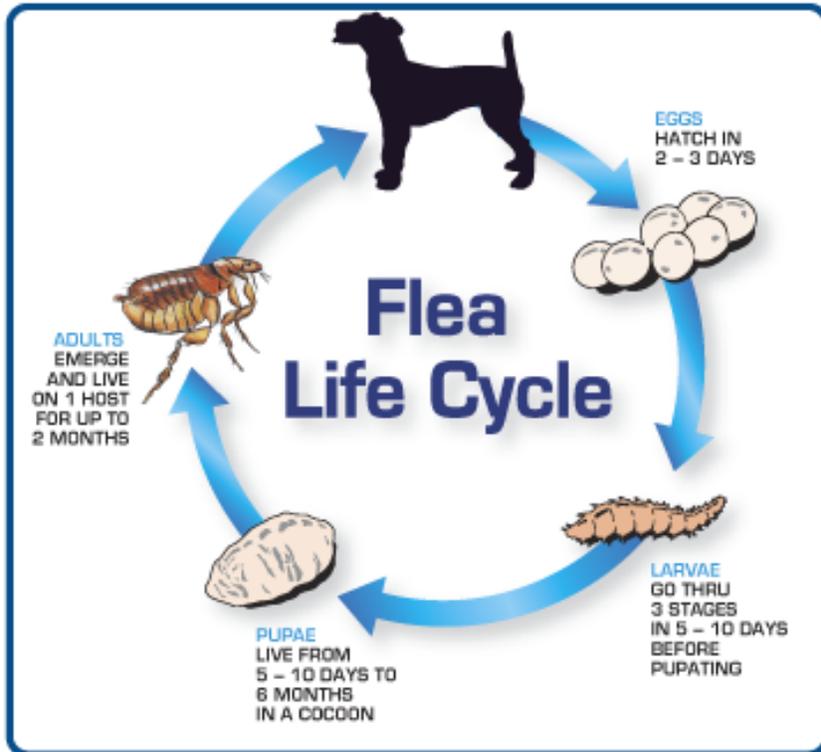
As we have already learned the adult female flea can lay up to 40-50 eggs every day. These eggs then fall off your pet into its surrounding environment.

Flea eggs, larvae and pupae will occur anywhere that your pet may go, whether in the house or outdoors. As the pet moves and plays, it is salting the environment with the flea eggs as well as flea "dirt". The flea "dirt" is essentially flea poop, which is digested blood from the adult fleas. The flea dirt feeds any newly hatched flea larvae that are in the carpeting, crevices in the floor and furniture, under furniture, under the bushes in the yard or porch. In other words anywhere your pet goes.

The first step in eliminating the infestation is treating any pets in your household. This stops the production of new eggs, by killing the adult fleas before they are able to lay the eggs. By doing this alone most fleas will be eliminated within the next 8 weeks, sometimes longer if there is a severe infestation. You have to remember that you will continue to see adult fleas during this period as the environment already has the three different life stages present. However, over time these stages will run their course and the cycle is stopped with the killing of the adult fleas on the pets. It is important to remember that the only way this process will work is if all the pets in the household are treated.

However, if the infestation is so severe that the pets and people in the household are under constant attack, the next step is to focus on the areas that your pet goes with environmental treatments. These are, but not limited to, vacuuming, washing the pets bedding, using environmental treatments in the form of pump sprays, directional sprays, foggers or a licensed exterminator. Ask your Veterinarian and staff for more detailed recommendations.

Always remember once you get the infestation eliminated, you will still want to continue your preventatives to prevent the problem from reoccurring.



The Flea Life Cycle

The most common flea that affects your pets, is the Cat Flea. The name is a little misleading, as this flea likes dogs just as much as cats. It will also live on a wide variety of other mammals including foxes, coyotes, opossum, and racoons. Luckily for us, they do not generally prefer humans, unless there is no other choice.

Once the adult flea emerges from its cocoon or pupa, it immediately starts looking for a host to feed on. A dog or cat is preferred, but any warm furry creature will do. Surprisingly, **the flea prefers to stay on its initial host**, only if the host has close to 200 or more fleas, will a flea try looking or jumping to a less populated host. In other words, the fleas that you are finding on your pet, have just hatched from the environment, **they have not jumped from one animal to the next.**

The adult female flea starts laying eggs within 24 hours of its first meal. The female flea lays 40-50 eggs a day, as well as continuously producing “flea dirt” or feces that the newly hatched larvae will feed on. Female fleas can live several weeks on the animal, if they are not killed from the animal grooming itself, or other means of treatment.

The eggs and flea dirt drop off the animal and fall back into the environment, whether that is outdoors or in your house. You will find the highest concentration of eggs where the animal spends most of its time. The eggs hatch in 2-3 days into larvae, which look like very small worms. The larvae mature through 3 different stages, which takes anywhere from 5 to 10 days. During this time the larvae’s main meal is the flea dirt that the adult fleas produce during their continuous blood meals on your pet.

The larvae then make a pupa or cocoon to protect them while they are developing into the adult flea. Although the flea can emerge in just 5 to 10 days, it can survive in this pupa for up to 6 months until the environmental conditions are right (temp and humidity) for them to hatch and then find a new host.

While in their pupae, fleas are very resistant to temperature and humidity changes as well as a lot of the environmental insecticides that are used to treat an infestation. This is something to keep in mind, if it seems as though environmental treatments are failing.

Fleas Among Us.....



Flea on a thumb.



The Cat Flea



Flea eggs on a fingertip.



Flea eggs and flea dirt



Flea dirt on an animal.



104 E. Commercial St.
PO Box 447
Waterville, KS 66548
Phone: 785-363-2222
Fax: 785-363-2225
E-mail: info@bluerivervetclinic.com
www.bluerivervetclinic.com

Services:

- *Wellness Exams
- *Vaccinations
- *Grooming
- *Dental Care
- *Surgery
- *Radiology
- *Pet Food & Retail
- *After Hours Emergency
- *Pick up & drop off services available

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Blue River Vet Clinic Hours

Dr. Nicole Porter and staff are available:

Monday: 7:30-5:30

Tuesday: 7:30-5:30

Wednesday: 7:30-5:30

Thursday: 7:30-5:30

Friday: 7:30-5:30

Saturday: 8:00-12:00

Emergency Care Available: 24/7

Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD)



Have you ever noticed that some pets can have a lot of fleas, but barely seem to be bothered, while other's may only have one or two and they are constantly scratching?

If your pet is the second type, then it may have a condition called flea allergy dermatitis or FAD. These pets have an allergy to the saliva of the feeding adult flea. In some cases it only takes one or two bites to make the pet just miserable.

These pets can, and will, scratch and chew themselves raw. Some are missing patches of hair, others have small sores and bumps all over there body, some have large sores. Often these pets will need seen by a Veterinarian to get the allergy under control.

However, even more important is to try to keep the pet's environment as flea free as possible. This means keeping all animals in the household on a preventative, as well as either minimizing time outdoors, or vigilantly spraying the yard with insecticides. Make sure the products used are safe for your pets by reading and following the label directions, and that the parts of the yard being treated are where your pet and any other animal might spend time, especially under bushes, the porch or other shady moist areas.

Flea prevention is the biggest key in avoiding FAD.