

erated Flea Control”

know that flea numbers will decline in the coming months, as the weather cools. This may bring some relief to those dogs and cats for whom flea saliva is an allergen.

Whilst fleas will become less evident, they will persist in lower numbers, to the extent that we will see flea-related skin disorders in this veterinary practice throughout the year. Most of us will adopt a “reactionary” approach to flea control. That is, we will stop our flea control in the cooler months, and start again once flea numbers expand.

Therein lies the problem.

A female flea seeks a blood meal from her host. This meal stimulates egg-laying at a rate of 50 eggs per female flea per day. **A dog with an average of 10 female fleas for one week has generated 3,500 flea eggs.**

By the time you notice fleas on your pet, typically you will have a large population of eggs, larvae, and pupae on your property.

We suggest the following approach to your flea control:

1. **Year-round use of an insect growth regulator.**

This is a medication that renders the flea larvae incapable of emerging from the egg. In **cats**, this is achieved by administering **an injection every 6 months called “Program”**. We can send you a reminder when this falls due. This product is very safe. In **dogs**, **“Program” tablets** may be administered monthly, or the insect growth regulator can be incorporated into the dogs heartworm and intestinal worm control (e.g. “Sentinel”). In both cases, the medication is administered with food.

2. **Year-round application of a monthly flea kill product.**

The market is saturated with topical (“spot-on”) flea control products, some of which incorporate heartworm and intestinal worm control. “Capstar” tablets may also provide relief to heavily infested pets. The plethora of products can create confusion, and sometimes serious errors. We are happy to advise you on the most suitable topical product for your situation.

3. **Treating The Environment**

Finally, you may need to attend make some effort to reduce or eliminate your existing population of eggs, larvae and pupae in the pets environment. Again, we are happy to advise you on safe and effective ways of dealing with this population.

Kind Regards

Scott & Chris