

## Spring newsletter

### It's time to spring into action

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, spring is a great time for people and pets to enjoy the outdoors. But that does mean you're more likely to come into contact with fleas and ticks. We recommend taking action now to protect your pet.

#### Fighting fleas

Your pet shares gardens, parks, woods, heathland and fields with many other untreated animals that can leave a trail of flea eggs behind them. And the warmer months enable fleas to reproduce faster, making them a bigger problem. Here's what to do to combat these pesky parasites.

1. Don't wait to see fleas on your pet. Regularly treat your pet with a product that kills fleas before they reproduce.
2. Use the correct treatment for the weight of your pet.
3. Treat all the pets in your household. If you only treat the pet you've seen fleas on, you're leaving your other pets free to pick them up.
4. Regularly vacuum carpets and furnishings and wash your pet's bedding above 60 degrees Celsius to help remove flea eggs.

#### The tick threat to your pet

Disease-transmitting ticks are a growing problem. These bloodsucking parasites lurk on the edge of vegetation and can attach to your pet as they brush past. Be alert if your pet exercises outdoors or you take your pet travelling in the UK or overseas.

When ticks feed on blood they can transmit disease – in fact, ticks are second only to mosquitoes in transmitting infectious diseases to humans and animals. Lyme disease is one such problem and there are an estimated 2,000-3,000 new cases in England and Wales every year.<sup>1</sup>

To protect your pet, regularly use a treatment that kills ticks as well as fleas. Ask your vet to recommend which product is best for your pet.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Lyme-disease/Pages/Introduction.aspx>