

Flea and Tick Prevention

Fleas and ticks are two of the most common external parasites in dogs and cats. Not only can these parasites negatively impact the health of your animal, but they can also enter your home and affect your whole family. Preventing fleas and ticks from biting and infecting your pets is an important part of preventative care.

Fleas are a tremendous nuisance not only to your pet but to your household. All it takes is one flea on your pet to lead to an entire infestation of your home and other pets. Treating flea infestations is much more difficult, time consuming, and expensive than prevention. While fleas do not typically prefer human hosts, they can also bite people if given the opportunity. It can take months to eradicate fleas once they have taken up residence inside, so prevention is essential to keep these tiny invaders out.

Ticks are equally problematic because they can transmit several diseases such as anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease. Pennsylvania has one of the highest incidences of Lyme disease in the country, and ticks can survive, in some cases, even through the winter months. Even with treatment, some of the diseases carried by ticks can lead to serious health problems, even death, so prevention is the best medicine.

Dogs and cats should be on monthly flea and tick prevention year-round, even if they stay indoors. Parasites can easily find a way inside from other pets or people. There are a wide variety of products for this purpose. Many over-the-counter products lack efficacy or have safety concerns, so always check with your veterinarian before use. At Main Street Vet we recommend Simparica Trio for dogs, and Revolution Plus for cats, both extremely effective at killing fleas and ticks, and have the added benefit of preventing against heartworms and intestinal parasites.