



# ECO-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO *FLEAS*



*Enlarged photo of flea*

## **Description**

*Fleas are tiny insects with hind legs modified for jumping; they are found on pets, in carpet and in shady, moist soil in the yard; they leave black droppings around pet sleeping areas and hop when disturbed.*

## **Infestation**

*Fleas can attack pets and people- flea bites are mostly on the lower legs, and can turn red and itch. Most adult fleas live on the animal host (pets or other animals in the area), however, flea eggs and larva can be found in bedding, carpeting and areas where pets spend time resting and sleeping. An effective program to eliminate fleas must include controlling fleas on pets, and removing eggs and larva from the living area.*

*If you have fleas, but do not have pets, you could have animals entering your attic or crawlspace.*

## **Least Toxic Solutions**

- \*Keep your house well vacuumed, especially where your pet rests; dispose of vacuum bags after use to prevent fleas from escaping back into your home.
- \*Steam clean carpets to remove organic material which is food for flea larvae
- \*Wash your pet's bedding regularly in hot water; wash your bedding if pets sleep with you
- \*Use a flea comb to remove fleas from your pet. Dip the flea comb into soapy water to remove and kill any fleas that you encounter while combing your pet
- \*Shampoo your pet regularly with a gently shampoo. Shampoos containing chemical pesticides are not necessary, because ANY soapy water kills fleas, and washing your pet removes fleas and flea eggs from their fur.
- \*Try flea traps that utilize light, heat and sticky boards to trap any adult fleas living in your carpeting

## **Treatment**

- \*Test your yard for flea infestation by walking around in white socks and noticing if fleas jump on your legs. If areas of your yard are heavily infested, treat them using a spray of beneficial nematodes. These organisms kill flea larva, but are not harmful to the environment.
- \*Diatomaceous Earth or boric acid can be used in cracks and crevices around the house and in the yard. These desiccants penetrate the surface of the fleas and dry them out.
- \*Insect repellent granules- Cedar is Mother Nature's alternative to toxic chemical insecticides.
- \*Yard safe Insect repellent Hose End- For use on Lawns, gardens and patios
- \*RON'S BUG B GONE-Granules- Clove, Thyme, Corn and wintergreen oil

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