



## Flea Outbreak Alert!

### Treatment & Prevention of Fleas in Your Pet

We are currently seeing a marked increase in the number of fleas affecting pets in this area. Stop them from becoming a problem in your home.

It is vital to stop the flea life cycle as the female flea can lay 50 eggs per day. Young adult fleas in cocoons can take up to 6 months to emerge.

This means that if a single flea treatment is missed, you may have problems in your home for up to 6 months.



### How do I spot fleas?

Look for fleas by parting the coat near the tail base. If no live fleas can be seen, sometimes flea droppings are visible (small black specks).

### How Do I Treat a Flea Infestation?



#### 1) Treat ALL dogs and cats in your household:

Use both topical and oral flea products

- Topical flea products – Advantage or Frontline may be used fortnightly instead of monthly during flea infestations. In dogs, Advantix can be used instead of Advantage in tick season. Avoid cheap supermarket brands due to their unreliability and possible side effects.
- Flea tablets:
  - *Comfortis* – A long-acting monthly chewable tablet (Dogs only). An effective alternative for dogs that swim or are bathed regularly.
  - *Capstar* – A short-acting tablet that can be used 2-3 times per week to kill adult fleas (Cats and Dogs)
- Flea injection – Program flea injection is available for cats only and lasts 6 months. The injection prevents eggs from hatching.

#### 2) Treat your home:

- Wash your pet's bedding in hot water (> 60 °C)
- Vacuum pet areas twice a week
- Use flea bombs in the house
- Use Fleatrol Plus spray in pet areas

*NB: Flea baths and flea collars are not reliable protection against fleas.*

### Signs of Flea Allergy

- Scratching, biting or grooming excessively, especially around the tail base
- Loss of hair towards the back end (where they can reach)
- Twitching

Pets with flea allergy may have no visible signs of fleas. One flea bite every 10 days will keep these pets itchy.

Your pet should be seen by a vet if there are any flea allergy signs.

Please call us on **9498 3000** for more information.