

Cypress Square Animal Clinic
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Fleas, Ticks and How They Hurt Your Pet

Fleas

Unfortunately, fleas have been around for a long time and probably are not going anywhere. Fleas are found everywhere outside, inside, on your pet and sometimes on you. Fleas can transmit tapeworms to your pet when ingested, cause allergic reactions, and a severe infection can cause anemia, even death especially in young animals. If you see a flea or maybe multiple fleas it is important to consider that the adult fleas are only 5% of the population! This means that the remain 95% of the fleas life cycle is in the form of larvae, eggs and pupa that can be found in your furniture, your yard, carpet, tile, wood floors and many other hiding places! When you find yourself fighting a flea infestation it is important to treat your pets, your house and your yard more than once. For your pets you will find topical and oral medications, but this will not treat the house or your yard. To treat the environment it may take a few to several applications two weeks apart. Treating the yard two weeks apart helps to break the life cycle of the fleas. There are several products for your pet and the environment we can recommend, please contact us if you are interested in learning more.

Ticks

It is important to prevent ticks from getting on your pets. They carry many diseases that are detrimental to your pet's health such as Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tick Paralysis, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Borreliosis and others. Some flea preventions are capable of preventing ticks as well. If you do find a tick on your pet, be sure to remove it properly. To do so, take a pair of fine point tweezers and grasp as close to your pet's skin as possible. Avoid the body of the tick completely and pull gently to remove the part of the tick that is embedded in the skin. Once the tick is removed disinfect your hands and the tweezers. Use isopropyl alcohol to clean your pet's skin where the tick was attached. If ticks are removed properly within 24 hours the chance they spread disease is much less.