



# Veterinary Hospital

5078 Williamsport Pike Suite N Martinsburg WV

Phone: 304-270-1063 Fax: 304-270-1063

## Fleas and.....

**Fleas** are blood-sucking parasites. A heavy **flea infestation can be lethal** to smaller, old or young animals. Conditions caused by flea infestation include:

- 🐾 Flea Allergy Dermatitis
- 🐾 Flea anemia
- 🐾 Feline infectious anemia
- 🐾 Cat Scratch Fever/Bartonellosis
- 🐾 Tapeworm infection

## Common Myths about Fleas

### **My pet is indoor only, I can't have fleas.**

Indoor pets very commonly become infested with fleas. Owners and visitors can bring fleas, flea eggs and larva indoors on their shoes, socks and clothes. Once inside, fleas thrive in well regulated temperatures of the home. Visiting pets can leave fleas or eggs in your home. In town homes or apartments, fleas can leave 1 unit and to the next.

### **My pet can't have fleas because I am not getting bitten.**

The flea doesn't prefer human blood and will not take a blood meal from a human unless it is absolutely necessary for survival. A newly emerged and hungry flea may take a blood meal from the first warm body it finds. Human blood is the last choice to a flea and humans tend not to be bitten unless the flea population is extremely high.

### **We only have hardwood floors**

Cracks between the boards of the hardwood floors are a perfect hiding place for fleas

### **I don't see any fleas on my pet**

You shouldn't expect to see fleas on animals because they are licking them away when they are grooming. Usually you only see the signs of skin disease. The flea life cycle is always active; eggs are laid, larvae are developing, pupae are growing, ect. The environment affects how fast this happens. Keep in mind that, even though flea numbers may be lower in the winter, it is a mistake to stop flea control. It is much harder to control fleas in the spring and summer when the populations rise if you have small numbers of fleas laying eggs over the winter.



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## Ticks!

Ticks are blood sucking parasites that can transmit serious disease. Ticks are attracted to motion and body heat. They are most commonly found on dogs, cats, rodents, rabbits, deer, most small and large mammals.

After detaching, an adult female tick may lay 3,000 to 6,000 eggs. **If adult ticks cannot find a host animal in the fall, they can survive in leaf litter until the spring.**

### Disease

Ticks can transmit disease to pets and humans.



Lyme Disease- The deer tick is the main carrier. After being bitten by a tick that has transmitted Lyme disease, 80% of humans will develop a rash and/or flu-like symptoms.



Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever- A common zoonotic disease that hunters should be concerned about. Difficult to diagnose in dogs and humans because of the vague clinical symptoms.



Ehrlichiosis-spread by Brown Dog Tick and Lone Star Tick; A type of bacteria that infect and live within the white blood cells of their hosts.



Babesiosis-causes red blood cell destruction and anemia



Anaplasmosis- organism that occurs in the red blood cells. May also infect humans.

### Prevention

Treating the yard is one way to help prevent ticks. During prime tick months in the summer, spraying may be necessary every 1 to 2 weeks. You can use a residual insecticide liquid that is applied to the skin, which discourages ticks from staying on or implanting on a pet.

### Properly Remove a Tick

**Do not use matches, petroleum jelly, turpentine, nail polish or bare fingers to remove a tick.** Using rubbing alcohol, dab a small amount on the tick. Using tweezers, take hold of the tick as close to the skin as possible, pull slowly. Do not worry about leaving the head embedded; the head will come out later with the scab. Be careful not to squeeze the tick so as not to inject blood back into the pet.

Once the tick has been removed, put the tick into rubbing alcohol to kill it.