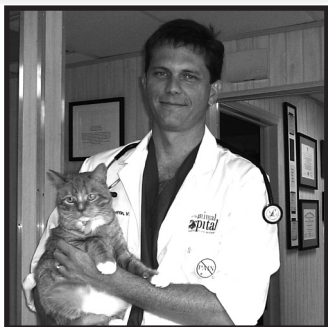


VETERINARY

Q: My dog is scratching like crazy. My husband thinks he has fleas, but that can't be right, can it? I thought there were no fleas and ticks in the winter. Please help!

Itchy in South Jersey

A: Dear Itchy, I am afraid your husband is right. Fleas and ticks can be a problem all year long. It is true that fleas will not survive outside in the winter months, but a dog or cat with fleas can bring them inside and they can survive in your home throughout the year. Ticks too can live in the winter months. They become dormant in the winter cold but a few unseasonably warm winter days can revive them and they will attach themselves to your cat or dog and transmit disease.



William Griffin , VMD

In order to protect your best friends, dogs and cats should be kept on a flea and tick preventative throughout the year. In fact, preventing fleas and ticks will keep your entire family safe. Once fleas are in the home your whole family is susceptible to their biting. In order to end your flea problem you will need to treat your pet and your carpet, bedding and furniture. You may even need an exterminator. And, in addition to their annoying biting, fleas can transmit tapeworms which can be a danger to you and your pets. Ticks can also migrate from your pet to you and your children spreading disease like Lyme and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

There are many products that help prevent flea and tick infestation. Some work better than others and some can even cause adverse reactions in some animals, especially cats and small dogs. Please consult your veterinarian to determine what the best choice is for your best friends.

An ounce of prevention, in this case, is the best medicine!

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Hospital
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Christopher Lindquist, VMD
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