

Flea Control in Dogs

Flea control is extremely important, even if your pet is primarily indoors.

The flea cycle lasts around 3 weeks, during which time the female flea can lay hundreds of eggs. Thus, if you get slack with your flea control there will be *thousands* of flea eggs in your environment (e.g under your sofa, in the cracks of your floorboards). Because flea eggs or larval cocoons can last up to a year before they need to hatch, you now have a big, long-term problem on your hands.

The best way to approach flea control is by **prevention**. Here are some examples:

- Use *Sentinel* which will stop any fleas picked up on your daily walk from producing any viable eggs – thus preventing your house and yard being contaminated by fleas of the future.
- Use a topical spray, spot-on or rinse, the day after every bath (preferably every 2-3 weeks, but definitely at least monthly) to prevent any fleas which jump on your dog from living more than 24 hours. (see the table of comparison of the products available)
- Vacuum your house (including under the sofa and bed) every week (like I do...NOT ☺)

For example, consulting the flea product comparison table below, the use of *Sentinel* tablet and *Advantage* spot on (the day after the bath, once a month) should prevent you ever having a flea problem, and will cover for other parasites as well - all for around \$20 a month! If you already have a flea problem, a *Comfortis* tablet once a month plus a fortnightly dose of a topical application like *Revolution* or *Advocate* can help you get on top of things, though it is essential you treat the home environment too (flea bomb, vacuuming, washing fabrics and bedding in hot water).

PRODUCT	Advantage	Advantix	Advocate	Comfortis	Frontera	Frontline Plus	Panoramis	Revolution	Sentinel	Activyl	Nexgard	Bravecto	
ACTIVE INGREDIENT	Imidacloprid	Imidacloprid + Permethrin	Imidacloprid	Spinosad	Fipronil	Fipronil	Spinosad + milbemycin oxime	Selamectin	Leufenuron	Indoxycarb	Afoxolaner	Fluralaner	
Adult Fleas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Stops fleas developing	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y			
Ticks		Y			Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	
Heartworm			Y				Y	Y	Y				
Whipworm			Y				Y		Y				
Hookworm			Y				Y		Y				
Roundworm			Y				Y		Y				
Tapeworm									Y				
Other Parasites	None	Repels flies & mosquitoes	Ear Mites, mange, lice	None	Lice	Lice	None	Ear mites & mange	None	None	None	None	
Youngest Age to Start	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	14 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	6 weeks	4 weeks	8 Weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	
Time Until Maximum Effect	98% existing fleas dead in 12 hours.	98% fleas dead in 12 hours	98% fleas dead in 12 hours	100% fleas dead in 4 hours	-	24 hours for product to disperse, then 4-18 hours.	100% fleas dead in 4 hours	100% dead in 42 hours		Starts working within hours	Within 8 hours	Within 8 hours for fleas, within 24 hours for ticks	
Method of Administration	Spot on	Spot on	Spot on	Tablet	spray	spot on or spray	tablet	spot on	Chewable tablet	spot on	Chewable tablet	Chewable tablet	
Dosing Frequency	Monthly	Monthly. Twice monthly for paralysis tick	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly. Twice monthly for paralysis tick	Monthly. Twice monthly for paralysis tick	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Every three months	
Additional Cautions	None	<u>Do not use if own cats</u>	Pets should test negative to heartworm before use	Should not be used in dogs with known seizure disorders	None	None	Puppies under 14 weeks may experience higher rate of vomiting	Pets should test negative to heartworm before use	Give with food. Pets should test negative to heartworm before use	None	None	None	
Approximate Cost* Per Treatment (10kg Dog)	\$7.10	\$10.90	\$13.90	\$10.20	\$4.50 - \$9	\$10.10	\$12.35	\$14.10	\$13.60	\$16.00	\$20	\$58	