

**F**

Fleas are common parasites of dogs, cats and other small mammals. They cause the animals to itch and can elicit an allergic response in some pets leading to scratching, hair loss, redness of skin, scaling and papules. Heavy infestations can cause anaemia, particularly in young animals. Dogs can also become infested by the tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum* (cucumber tapeworm) if fleas containing cysts are accidentally eaten.

**L**

Life-cycles of fleas can be completed in as little as 12-14 days or can take up to 350 days depending on temperature and humidity. Female fleas can start producing eggs 24-48 hours after taking the first blood meal and can produce up to 50 eggs per day.

**E**

Environment can play a vital role in sustaining the fleas. In warm seasons the development of fleas outdoors is enhanced, however, fleas can develop indoors all year round given suitable conditions.

**A**

A healthy pet is a joy for the owner and should be of high importance. Constant itching of the body is a nuisance to the pet and could be a worry or concern for the owner. Hair loss can turn a beautiful coat to a sorry sight and sore patches can result.

**S**

Speak to your vet for advice about how to control fleas, including the various anti-parasitic agents available and the protocol best suited to your pet.



ESCCAP is a not-for-profit organisation comprising a group of veterinary experts from across Europe. The group is dedicated towards giving vets and pet owners the best possible information available to help eradicate pet parasite infestations.

ESCCAP UK is a national association which brings together some of the UK's leading experts in the field of veterinary parasitology. ESCCAP UK provides vets and pet owners with UK relevant information to help protect against pet parasites.

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