



Guide Dogs for the Blind

FLEA PREVENTION INFORMATION FOR PUPPY RAISERS

Controlling fleas on your puppy is a multi-step process. Adult fleas spend most of their time on an animal, but the flea eggs, larvae, and pupae are found in abundance in the indoor and outdoor environments. For every flea that you see on the puppy, there are likely to be hundreds of eggs and larvae in your home and yard. Therefore, a truly effective flea control program always includes treating the environment as well as treating all animals in the household.

- ❑ Properly apply Frontline Plus every 21-30 days. Do not bathe 1 week prior or 1 week after application.
- ❑ All other pets in the household (including outdoor pets) must be on a reliable monthly flea preventative as well.
- ❑ **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the indoor environment:** vacuum thoroughly, especially below drapes, under furniture edges, and where your pets sleep. It is estimated that vacuuming can remove up to 50% of flea eggs. Vacuum daily in high traffic areas, weekly in others. Each time, seal the vacuum bag in a plastic bag and discard immediately. Additionally, there are safe sprays that can be used indoors to prevent re-infestation. Virbac “Knockout” is one example.
- ❑ Wash all pets’ bedding weekly. Use heat to dry.
- ❑ Clean your automobile, pet carrier, garage, basement, or any other place where pets spend much time.
- ❑ **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the outdoor environment:** there are many safe pyrethrin based sprays that can be used in your yard; Virbac’s yard spray is one example. The fleas like to live in closed areas such as bushes, steps, under the house, porches, decks, under mats, etc. The eggs will die when exposed to direct sunlight and topical sprays. Repeat in 2 weeks. Another method of outdoor flea control without using chemicals is using free living nematodes. This option may take longer to clear the infestation; however it could be helpful for long-term control. Be aware that urban wildlife and feral cats passing through are often carriers of fleas. Try to eliminate places to hide such as open sheds or crawl spaces.

Keep in mind that until all of the fleas in your home have died, you will probably still see some fleas, even on a treated pet, since some immature forms may continue to develop. Also, it can take up to 24 hours for a flea to die on a pet that has been treated with an effective topical flea medication. If a large number of flea eggs and larvae are present, it can often take two to three months for fleas to be fully cleared from the home.



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FLEA PREVENTION CHECKLIST AND NEXGARD ORDER FORM

Puppy Name _____ Puppy Raiser Name _____

Puppy ID# _____ Puppy Raiser Address _____

Puppy's Current Weight: _____ Shipping Address? _____

The following are steps to take to eliminate fleas. Please answer the following questions.

- When did you first notice that your puppy had fleas? _____
- How many fleas are you finding on your puppy? (An occasional flea? Several fleas? Many fleas?) _____
- Do you have other pets in the household and/or outside? (type and number) _____
 - Are they on a flea preventative? _____
 - Which pets? What product? Application frequency? _____

Steps of action to eliminate fleas:

- Properly apply Frontline Plus on your puppy every three weeks.
- Regularly administer a reputable flea preventative (topical or oral) to all other pets in the household/outside. Give the flea preventative medication year-round according to the label instructions.
- Vacuum your house thoroughly, especially below drapes, under furniture edges, and where your pets sleep. Vacuum daily in high traffic areas, weekly in others.
- Wash all pets' bedding and area rugs at least once a week. It is important to dry these items in the sun or hot clothes dryer because this will help kill the flea eggs and larvae.
- Assess progress...is there improvement after the first month? _____. If so, great work, keep it up! If not, please submit this form to your club leader for review. The leader will communicate with your Community Field Representative (CFR) who will either provide additional helpful advice or determine that the oral flea/tick preventative, Nexgard, is the right choice for your puppy.

Leader approval: _____ Date: _____

CFR approval: _____ Date: _____