

## FLEAS AND SKIN PARASITES

## PET CARE SHEET

### FLEA LIFE CYCLE

Adult fleas feed on blood from their pets or owners. After mating eggs are laid in the environment (pet bedding, carpets, furniture etc) taking 12 days – 12 months to develop into adults. Each female may lay 400 eggs in a lifetime. At any time 95% of the total flea population, are maturing in the home – those seen on the animal are truly “the tip of the iceberg”.

### FLEA ALLERGY

Some animals are sensitive (allergic) to flea bites and will scratch or chew causing severe skin damage and or skin infection – this may require treatment with antibiotics and anti – inflammatory drugs – usually corticosteroids. Black specks (flea faeces) on your pets’ coat may indicate infestation. Warm homes provide ideal conditions for fleas to breed so that control may be necessary all year round.

**Full CONTROL requires killing the fleas on all the animals in the household AND preventing those in the environment developing into adults.**

**Surface living mites** eg ear mites can cause intense irritation. **Ticks** are associated with the transmission of Lyme disease **Burrowing mites – sarcoptes and demodex** cause mange sarcoptes mites are mainly transmitted by heavily infested foxes

### PET CONTROL

Advocate A spot on product which is rapidly effective against fleas both on and off the animal it is also licensed for the **prevention** and treatment of lungworm in dogs – an emerging and very important disease. Advocate is effective at controlling sarcoptic ( fox ) mange, roundworm and demodectic mange. This is the practice recommended product for dogs because of its additional lungworm effect

Stronghold – spot on applied once a month is effective ( has a rapid killing effect on fleas ) and is safe – it can be used in puppies and kittens from 6 weeks of age. Stronghold not only kills fleas on your pet but can also control developing fleas in the house. Stronghold is effective against ear mites in cats and sarcoptic mange mites in dogs as well as treating round worms without the need for tablets.

**Frontline spray – effective up to 2 months in cats, 3 months in dogs, cats may prefer the non-hiss spray. This is our recommended flea allergy product**

Flea products available from the Vet are more effective than those available in pet shops and supermarkets. We know that the products we sell are safe and will work.

### **ENVIRONMENT CONTROL**

Thoroughly vacuuming the house will remove 80% of environmental contamination; HOT wash (55deg C) all bedding. If using sprays be sure to treat the whole house including under beds and furniture. Stronghold and Advocate ( but not Frontline ) control fleas on the animal and the environment.

Program stops fleas breeding and is given to all animals in the house once a month in the food, or by injection every 6 months for cats. *Program* does not kill fleas living on your pet and immature fleas in the environment will continue to develop for about 2 months after starting treatment. *Program* has proved to be effective and safe and may be all you need to use if your pet does not pick up fleas outside the home. *Program Plus* – has all the benefits of program but also kills intestinal worms.

*Indorex and Acclaim sprays* – used once a year after thoroughly vacuuming – kill immature fleas in the home. Indorex is also effective against dust mites.

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