

## Flea Control Sheet

New products are of great benefit to flea-infested and flea allergic animals and allow a safe and effective way to prevent and to control infestation once established. Even if the consistent use of a topical adulticide alone is tempting, rotation and a combination of products should still be used to delay resistance. In addition, environmental flea control is a wise approach, especially in cases of severe infestation or in situations where there is a flea-allergic animal. Finally, in order to avoid failures and resistance, it is important to treat all pets in the household.

**Insect growth regulating products** – *For prevention use one of these products all year around. For control of a severe infestation use an animal contact product and the Knockout Spray.*

- Program, or Sentinel (*Lufenuron*) – A once-a-month flea pill (6 month injection for cats) that renders the flea unable to produce living eggs after taking a blood meal from your pet. **Program does not kill adult fleas.** This is a thinking person's approach to flea control as a population that can't reproduce will become extinct. For the flea life cycle information please visit: [www.ah.novartis.com/cab/en/dog\\_fleas\\_lifecycle.shtml](http://www.ah.novartis.com/cab/en/dog_fleas_lifecycle.shtml), for Program product information please visit: <http://www.program.novartis.us/>
- Knockout Premise Spray – An insect growth regulator that renders fleas unable to multiply. *See back for directions on premise spray use.*

**Products that kill adult fleas** – *For prevention use one or the other once a month July through November. For control of an infestation use one of the two listed products now and continue through the end of November or longer as required.* <http://frontline.us.merial.com/index.asp>

- Frontline Plus Top Spot (*Fipronil & (S) methoprene*) – Topical spot-on treatment for adult flea and tick control that is not removed by swimming or bathing. Use once a month on dogs and cats to kill fleas and ticks during the flea season or for control of a flea infestation. Provides adequate off-season flea control on *dogs* for up to 3 months. The methoprene is an insect growth regulator and will help prevent drug resistance from developing.
- Frontline Spray (*Fipronil*) – an on animal spray. This is the most effective flea killing product available. This should be applied to dogs and cats as directed on the label and then combed into the fur. Each application is effective for a full month to kill adult fleas.

**\*Note – Use only soap free shampoos such as Allergoom or Allermyl when using topical flea products. Strong detergents such as Sergeants Flea & Tick shampoo will decrease or destroy effectiveness of these products.**

### Ancillary Products

- Flea Combs – A tool for manual removal of adult fleas.
- Predatory Nematodes – Nematodes are almost microscopic worms that live in the soil. Organic gardeners are familiar with their effective control of soil grubs such as the cabbage rootworm maggot. They are also effective against fleas. Nematodes may be purchased at good nurseries; you will have to ask for them as they are kept refrigerated until ready to use.

### Combination Products, house treatments

- Knockout Premise Spray – A hand-held area treatment spray that kills adult fleas for 1 month, and stops fleas from reproducing for 6 months. Can be reapplied once a month as needed to kill adult fleas.  
[http://www.virbacvet.com/preventic/product/virbac\\_knockout\\_es\\_area\\_treatment/](http://www.virbacvet.com/preventic/product/virbac_knockout_es_area_treatment/)
- Flea Busters – Borate compound that is beaten into your carpet.
  - Professionally applied – guaranteed for 1 year. Call 206-628-3532.  
<http://www.fleabusterswa.com>
- The Green Method – Please visit <http://watoxics.org/healthy-living/healthy-homes-gardens-1/factsheets/fleas?searchterm=flea+control> Otherwise if you have a mild flea infestation diligent application of the first two steps below, repeated twice weekly, may be all that is necessary:

Preparing your home:

*The first step in effective flea control is to provide an environment where the maximum number of fleas can be eradicated at one time. Three factors encourage fleas to emerge from their protective cocoon: Vibration, humidity and high temperature. By following the recommendations below, you can render the fleas vulnerable to successful elimination.*

- ✓ Vacuum thoroughly, using all the attachments and get into every nook, cranny and crevice; then discard the vacuum bag (outside) after using.
- ✓ Hot-water wash all bedding that your animal spends time on. If your pet consistently sits in a place that doesn't have something washable covering it, put a towel, rug, blanket, etc. on that spot so that it can be washed in the future as an ongoing aid to flea control.
- ✓ If you were planning to steam clean your carpets within the next six to twelve months, do so now instead.
- ✓ Turn up the heat for several hours prior to flea spraying.

THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS FLEA-INFESTATION SITUATIONS.

- *Strictly indoor cat, no pet going outside and no on-going source of fleas, some evidence of flea dirt or tapeworms. This is a great opportunity to prevent a much larger problem from developing in the future.*
  - Program and/or Knockout Area Treatment Spray and diligent flea-combing
  - Green Method house treatments can also be used.
- *Strictly indoor cat, in an apartment building that has an interior common use hallway leading to your unit as well as others, with other tenants owning pets.*
  - Program and/or Knockout Area Treatment Spray
  - -And- Frontline July through November, or as needed
  - Green Method house treatments and Flea Busters as needed.
- *Indoor / outdoor cat or dog, evidence of fleas and/or tapeworms.*
  - Program and/or Knockout Area Treatment Spray
  - -And- Frontline July through November, or as needed.
  - Green Method house treatments and Flea Busters as needed.
- *Severe flea problem on dog or cat that goes outside, and/or flea bite allergy*
  - Program and/or Knockout Area Treatment Spray
  - -And- Frontline July through November often will be required longer.
  - Green Method house treatments and Flea Busters, and Nematode yard treatment may additionally needed.

Notes: