

# FLEA ELIMINATION PREP SHEET

The most common flea in the home is the cat flea but dog fleas are also found in our area. Regardless of which one you have, the control procedures are the same. Your pets will pick up fleas when they are outside and bring them into your home. Fleas will get a blood meal from their host (You or your Pet) and start breeding. One flea can turn into thousands in a few months. Treating your pet with Frontline before fleas have become established will usually prevent infestations. Once established, home products and do it yourself treatments will not eliminate fleas!

## **FLEAS HAVE A FOUR-STAGE LIFE CYCLE: EGG, LARVAE, PUPAE AND ADULT.**

The adult flea gets a blood meal and then starts laying eggs. The eggs hatch into a small worm or larvae that feed on the excretions (poop) from the adult fleas. They soon go into a cocoon or pupa stage to develop into an adult flea. They will remain in this stage until a host arrives and then hatch immediately latching on for a blood meal. The adults get a blood meal and the cycle starts all over again.

Our treatment will kill the adult fleas and the larvae on contact. The residual effect of our materials holds up for 3-4 weeks to kill the newly emerging adult fleas and the Precore (Insect Growth Regulator) prevents the larvae from developing into an adult flea for up to 6 months.

You are able to review the Labels and Safety Data Sheets of the materials that we will be using by contacting our office and logging on to [KwikKill.net](http://KwikKill.net).

## **PREPARING FOR A TREATMENT**

**For best results, proper preparation is important!**

- Pick things up from floors, including clothes, boxes, papers, toys, shoes, rugs etc.
- Vacuum all floors paying special attention to areas pets spend most of their time. Vacuum under beds and along baseboards, vacuum furniture and under the cushions. Vacuum the stairs and under them if they are open. Empty the vacuum cleaner or change the bag when done.
- Wash & Dry pet bedding, rugs and comforters if pets get onto the beds. A clothes dryer on medium heat for 20 minutes will kill fleas and eggs.
- If you have cats, be sure to point out their hiding places to your technician so they can be treated. Also point out favorite resting spots that your pets frequent.
- Treat your pets while the home is being treated. Use a flea shampoo with pyrethrum as an active ingredient or take them to the Vet or groomer.
- Remain out of your home until materials are dry, usually 4 hours.

## AFTER YOUR FLEA TREATMENT

### **Vacuum after two days and every other day for a minimum of 2 weeks**

Vibrations from vacuuming stimulate the pupae stage of the flea to hatch into the adult flea. You will see faster control if they hatch within the first two weeks when our treatment is the strongest. Pay special attention to the areas your pets spend most of their time. This is where most flea activity will be. **It is not uncommon to find fleas around for a few weeks or longer after our treatment.**

Examine your pets for more fleas or flea dirt. Flea dirt is dried up blood from their blood meal off the host. Putting your pet over a white sheet and scratching or rubbing his belly, hindquarters and neck will detect flea dirt. If you find dark pepper like material, it is flea dirt. You can test this flea dirt in a glass of warm water. The pepper like material will melt with a reddish tint. This is because the "flea dirt" is actually your pets' blood. It would be a good idea to give your pets another flea shampoo if this continues. Repeat this once a week.

If your pet scratches a lot this does not mean you still have fleas. Pets can have allergies just like people do and scratch because it feels good. The best way to check for flea activity is to look for the flea dirt and adult fleas.

Continue to use Frontline or other preventive medicine. Fleas will be active outside until we have a solid frost and temps stay below 60 degrees. You may stop using Frontline until spring if you do not have fleas any more. Start treating your pets preventively one month before the flea season starts. The flea season starts when temps stay over 60 degrees, usually late May or early June.

**We recommend a follow up treatment after two weeks to make sure all fleas have been eliminated. We will give you a price for this 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment but it typically costs 30-50% less than your first Flea Elimination Service.**