



---

# TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

---

## Advice Note 1.0

# Fighting Fleas

## How to get rid of a flea infestation

**FACT** = there are 4 stages in the flea lifecycle:

- (a) eggs,
- (b) larvae,
- (c) pupae
- (d) and adult fleas.

Only adult fleas live on the pet- the rest live in your home and garden environment.

1. Correctly **apply a pipette of FRONTLINE Combo<sup>®</sup>** to all cats and dogs in your care, make sure it is the correct dose size for each animal's weight. The product will kill adult fleas on the pet within 24 hours. It will kill any more that jump on and also sterilise the female fleas so any eggs she lays will not hatch.

**FACT** = female fleas can lay up to 50 eggs a day

2. **Vacuum** the home thoroughly, ensuring you move and vacuum under all furniture and in all the nooks and crannies. Do this even if you have wooden or laminate flooring. This will mechanically remove some of the eggs, larvae and pupae in the home environment.

**FACT** = flea larvae move away from light

**FACT** = flea larvae can live between cracks in floorboards

3. **Wash pets' bedding** at 60°C to remove some of the immature stages.

4. Thoroughly spray all floor space in the home with a **household spray** – this may require more than one application (you need to apply it everywhere the pet goes- remember the car!) This will kill the eggs and larvae in the home that come into contact with the spray. Remember to move furniture and spray underneath.

**FACT** = insecticidal home sprays do not kill the pupal stage

5. **Encourage the pupal stage of the life cycle to hatch out** into new adult fleas, so they will jump onto your treated pet and die. This can be done by giving them warmth, vibration, CO<sub>2</sub> and humidity. To provide these stimuli:

1. Turn up the heating in the home
2. Place wet towels on warm radiators/ bowls of hot water on the floor/ and boil the kettle in the rooms of your home
3. Vacuuming will generate warmth and vibration and encourage pupae to hatch

6. When new adult fleas emerge from the pupae they will jump onto the pet which has been treated with FRONTLINE Combo and be killed within 24 hours. **These fleas will be seen on the pet before they die.**



---

# TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

---

Treating your pet like one of the family

## Advice Note 1.0 cont.

**FACT** = Eradicating the pupae from the home can take several months. Therefore it is normal to continue to see live fleas on pets for this period

7. Thoroughly vacuum the home again 2 days after application of the household spray including all the places you do not normally get to (under the sofa between sofa cushions etc).

**FACT** = Regular vacuuming will help speed up removal of eggs, larvae and pupae from the environment

8. **Ensure your pets have their usual run of the house.** As the adult fleas emerge from the pupae they want to jump onto your pet to feed, if the pets are not around the fleas will jump on to and bite you instead!

9. It may take several months to remove all the life stages from your home. Until the environment is free of healthy eggs, larvae and pupae you will still see fleas on your pet as they emerge from pupae.

10. It is essential that you keep up treatment with FRONTLINE Combo all year. For treatment of a current flea infestation use FRONTLINE Combo on **all** the cats and dogs every 4 weeks.

## Don't forget...

- It can take months to rid your home of fleas- a single treatment will not be sufficient!
- FRONTLINE Combo affects the flea nervous system, causing hyperexcitation before they are killed. This can make them even more visible in your pet's coat.
- Treat all the areas your pets frequent such as the car, outdoor buildings, dog kennels etc.
- For effective flea prevention (once the initial infestation is eliminated), you should continue treatment all year round with FRONTLINE Combo; dogs every 8 weeks and cats every 6 weeks.
- Fleas can live and breed all year in your home.
- Prevention is always better than cure.
- Any breaks in treatment will mean your pets are at risk of picking up fleas again. Once on your pet they will start rapidly breeding and laying eggs (50 per day!) which will infest your home.

**If you fail to keep up with regular treatments your home and pet are at risk of re-infestation!!!**