

Flea control requires treatments for pets, home

Robert Nathan Gregory
MSU Extension Service
Peak flea season is in the spring and summer, but in warmer areas like the South, successful flea control is a yearlong battle.

“Heavy flea infestations can make life miserable for pets and their owners and can even cause anemia in puppies and kittens due to blood loss,” said Jerome Goddard, an entomologist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. “Fleas are also important hosts for tapeworms, and their bites can cause skin problems and allergic reactions in susceptible pets.”

There are effective methods for controlling fleas, but they must be implemented preventively. Steps can be taken now to avoid heavy infestations when the weather warms up.

While preventive flea control relies primarily on regular use of on-pet flea treatments and regular cleaning of pet bedding and resting areas, control of heavy, established infestations requires more effort and expense.

The key to controlling heavy flea infestations is to attack them in all three areas where they occur: on the pet, in the house and in the yard.

It is important to realize that success usually requires considerable time and persistence.

“On-pet treatments that are applied topically or orally are the most effective tools available,” said MSU Extension entomologist Blake Layton. “Some require prescriptions that can only be purchased through a veterinarian, but there are many available over the counter or online. Advantage, Capstar, Comfortis, Frontline Plus, Revolution and Seresto are examples of available treatments.”

Reading treatment labels and checking the active ingredients before application

is crucial, as some treatments are safe for dogs but not cats. Also, some on-pet treatments also control ticks, while others do not.

“Never use a product that contains either permethrin or amitraz on a cat, as these ingredients are fatal to cats,” said Dr. Kristine Edwards, senior Extension associate in the MSU Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology and licensed local veterinarian. “Different species react to different chemicals. Cats are not just small dogs. It’s best to work with your veterinarian to determine what’s best for your pet, as well as to establish a relationship with your veteri-

narian in the event your pet has a reaction to a medication.”

Not allowing pets indoors is the best way to avoid home infestations, but this solution is not acceptable to many pet owners.

If pets are allowed inside, the risk of flea infestation can be reduced by using on-pet flea treatments, designating special areas for pets to rest and sleep, and cleaning bedding and the surrounding area regularly.

“Flea treatment in homes and lawns should focus on areas where pets sleep and spend most of their time,” Layton said. “Regular, thorough vacuuming and sanitation, especially around

bedding areas, is critical for successful indoor flea control.”

Although preventive indoor sprays are no longer recommended, there are several products that can be used to control established indoor flea infestations.

Some products control adult fleas, while others control immature fleas, which live off the pet in bedding and surrounding areas.

The best control is achieved by using treatments that contain both an adulticide and a growth regulator product that controls immature fleas.

“As with on-pet treatments, read home treatment labels carefully before spraying them inside your house,” Layton said. “Few products are labeled or safe for broadcast application to carpets and furniture.”

In situations where outdoor areas become infested by

fleas, broadcast insecticide treatments can prevent bites.

Sprays are generally more effective than granular insecticides, especially for enclosed spaces such as under porches or bushes, or in

crawl spaces or utility sheds.

When treating outdoor areas, give special attention to areas where pets spend the most time sleeping and resting, as this is where most of the immature fleas occur.

Fishing forecast announced for central Mississippi lakes

Press Release

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) fisheries biologists recently forecasted the upcoming fishing season in central Mississippi.

“Fall 2018 electrofishing revealed a healthy largemouth bass population on Ross Barnett Reservoir with an abundance of fish over fifteen inches.,” said MDWFP fisheries biologist Ryan Jones.

There are trophy bass in Neshoba County Lake, Simpson County Lake, and Lake Calling Panther. These lakes produce lunkers over 10 pounds every year. March is a great month to catch these big spawners on their shallow beds.

“The Claude Bennett State Lake fishery in Jasper County has really taken off after recent additions of threadfin shad. Largemouth bass and crappie are abundant. Anglers can enjoy relaxed

fishing in a beautiful setting while targeting the new fish attractors,” Jones added.

Central Mississippi brean anglers do not have to travel far for some of the best bream fishing in the state.

“Bream averaged over a half pound at Prentiss Walker State Lake, Shadow Lake at Roosevelt State Park, and Eagle Lake during spring angler creel surveys,” Jones said. “Ross Barnett Reservoir is not the only location in central Mississippi to catch crappie. Okatibbee Reservoir, Neshoba County Lake, and Eagle Lake also contain healthy crappie populations and produce good numbers.”

For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at (601) 432-2212.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.



Read labels for active ingredients in flea treatments before applying them on pets. Some treatments are safe for dogs but not cats. (Photo by CanStock)

No more donated socks for inmates after drugs sewn into pair

Associated Press

Friends and relatives of inmates in a northeast Mississippi jail can no longer bring them clothing after drugs were found hidden in some clothes.

Local news outlets report Lee County Sheriff Jim Johnson changed the policy after finding narcotics sewn into socks.

Officials are charging a woman, 22-year-old Emily Yingling of Blue Springs, with introducing contraband into a jail. Two inmates also face charges — 27-year-old James Eaton of Saltillo and 38-year-old Randell Button

of Blue Springs. It’s unclear if any of the three has a lawyer

Johnson says inmates now must buy underwear, socks and T-shirts from the jail commissary.

The sheriff says the jail previously allowed people to bring Bibles to inmates, but stopped that too after finding a weapon hidden in one and cocaine sewn into another.

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