



## Bug-Wise

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**‘On Pet Treatments’ for Fleas and Ticks:** Fleas and ticks are present year round, but they become more plentiful in spring and summer. Heavy flea or tick infestations can make pets miserable, and some pets have severe allergies to flea bites. Fleas also serve as intermediate hosts for tapeworms, and ticks vector several serious diseases that affect both humans and pets. Some ticks can also cause ‘tick paralysis’ on humans and pets. The potential for bites to humans increases when pets bring these pests into the lawn and home. Fortunately, there are several effective products that can be applied directly to the animal to control fleas and some of these products also control ticks.

The following table provides general information on these ‘on-pet flea treatments’. This table focuses on flea and tick products only. It does not address products that are used primarily for internal parasites, such as heartworms, but some heartworm products are listed because they also control fleas.

When using ‘on pet treatments’ it is important to be sure the product is labeled for the kind of animal being treated (some of these products are toxic to cats) and that the rate is appropriate for the size of the animal. Many of these products come in different sized packages for animals of a specific weight range. Be sure to consult a veterinarian before using these products. Also keep in mind that most of these flea products do not control internal parasites. Some of the listed products, especially those that control heartworms or other internal parasites, require a prescription and may be purchased only through a veterinarian, but most are available ‘over the counter’ through local or internet suppliers.

On-pet flea treatments are best used as preventive treatments. It is much easier to keep your pet from ever becoming infested with fleas than it is to control a heavy flea infestation in the home or lawn. It is important to follow the application schedule if you want to keep your pet, home, and lawn free of fleas and ticks. Most of these treatments are intended for monthly application. Cost of on-pet flea and tick treatments varies with the active ingredient and size of pet and ranges from \$8 to \$17 per pet per month.

**Avoid Resistance:** Because fleas can become resistant to an insecticide if they are repeatedly exposed to the same product, it is important to avoid prolonged, repeated use of the same on-pet flea treatment. For example, if you have used a product containing fipronil for several months, it is a good idea to switch to a product containing some other active ingredient for a few months.

Remember, only adult fleas occur on the animal. The eggs, larvae, and pupae live in the pet bedding area. Flea larvae feed on partially digested blood in the feces of adult fleas, dried blood, skin flakes and other organic debris that drops off the animal and accumulates in the bedding area.

If you already have an active flea infestation, you still need to use one of the on-pet treatments to control adult fleas on the pet(s), but you also need to control immature fleas in all areas where they occur—in the home and/or yard. For information on controlling fleas inside the home see Publication 2443, Control Household Insect Pests, pages 17-19 (accessible on-line at [www.msucare.com](http://www.msucare.com), under ‘publications’). For information on controlling fleas and/or ticks in the yard see Publication 2331, Control of Insect Pests in and around the Home Lawn, pages 16 and 17.

## Topical Spot-on and Oral Treatments for Flea and Tick Control

<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Active Ingredient</b>	<b>Application method</b>	<b>Insects Controlled</b>	<b>For Use On</b>
Frontline Top Spot	Fipronil	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Dogs or Cats
Frontline Plus	Fipronil + methoprene	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Dogs or Cats
Advantage	Imidacloprid	Topical spot-on	Fleas	Dogs or Cats
K-9 Advantix	Imidacloprid + Permethrin	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Dogs Only
Biospot for Dogs	Permethrin + Methoprene	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Dogs Only
Biospot for Cats	Etofenprox + Methoprene	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Cats
ProtiCall	Permethrin	Topical spot-on	Fleas & Ticks	Dogs Only
Revolution	Selamectin	Topical spot-on (Prescription required)	Fleas & Ticks, (Heartworms & internal parasites)	Dogs or Cats
Sentinel	Milbemycin oxime + Lufenuron	Oral Tablet (Prescription required)	Fleas (eggs and larvae only) (Heartworms & internal parasites)	Dogs Only
Program	Lufenuron	Oral Tablet or Suspension (Monthly)	Fleas (eggs and larvae only)	Dogs or Cats
Proban Tablets	Cythioate	Oral Tablet (twice weekly)	Fleas & Ticks`	Dogs or Cats
Capstar	Nitenpyram	Oral Tablet (one day treatment to kill adult fleas on pet)	Fleas	Dogs or Cats

This information is for preliminary planning purposes only. Be sure to read the label before purchasing and follow label directions carefully. Some products require a veterinarian's prescription.

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This information is for educational and preliminary planning purposes only. Brand names mentioned in this publication are used as examples only. No endorsement of these products is intended. Other appropriately labeled products containing similar active ingredients should provide similar levels of control. Always read and follow the insecticide label.