



Flea Control

Keep Your Pet Happy, Healthy, and Flea-Free

Fleas live year-round in the Bay Area, but are more prevalent in the spring and summer. Keeping your pet on a high-quality flea preventative year-round is the best way to prevent a flea infestation from taking hold in your home.

There are some effective over-the-counter flea preventatives—most come in topical form (a liquid applied to the skin between the shoulder blades), and there is one effective flea collar. Prescription flea medications are highly effective, and come in oral or topical form. Most flea preventatives are given monthly.

Many flea preventatives deter ticks as well. All products have a minimum age at which they have been demonstrated as safe, and some are safe for pregnant or nursing animals. Some dog flea preventatives are toxic to cats, and must not be given if you have cats in your household. Read the packaging carefully to be sure the product you're purchasing is appropriate for your pet and household.

Over-the-Counter Options:

Note that many over-the-counter options, especially collars, are ineffective. Those listed below are typically effective. Generic brands may be available with the same ingredients.

- **Frontline (fipronil) or Advantage (imidacloprid):** These topical solutions for dogs and cats protect against fleas and ticks, and spread on the lipid (skin) layer of the pet. They may be less effective for pets that swim or are bathed regularly.
- **Seresto (imidacloprid):** This is the only effective flea collar, and protects dogs and cats against fleas and ticks for 8 months.

Prescription Options:

This is a selection of available prescription flea preventatives. A veterinarian will need to prescribe these. Discuss options with your veterinarian.

- **Revolution (selamectin):** Revolution is available for dogs and cats, and protects against fleas, ticks, heartworm, and some other intestinal worms.
- **Nexgard, Simparica, Bravecto, Credelio (isoxazoline class):** These highly effective oral medications for dogs prevent fleas, ticks, and other mites (such as mange). Bravecto lasts 90 days, and the others last 30 days. Bravecto also has a topical option for cats.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

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