

**HOLT VETERINARY CLINIC
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SUMMER INVADERS / FLEAS, TICKS, AND MOSQUITOES

YOU ARE HEARING MORE ABOUT FLEA AND TICK CONTROL. The pharmaceutical industry is scrambling with the help of the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to safely and conveniently eliminate fleas and ticks from your pet and home. Fleas and ticks cause many diseases of the cat and dog as well as of humans.

A TOPICAL APPLICATION CALLED FRONTLINE PLUS HAS EPA APPROVAL AND IS AVAILABLE FOR VETERINARIANS TO DISPENSE FOR CATS AND DOGS. You have complete flea and tick control available as monthly preventives for both cats and dogs. The topical application of Frontline is advantageous for all flea and tick infestations, of all intensities, will not wash off, and kills on contact: This is helpful to pets who suffer from flea allergy dermatitis and for the control of tapeworm. The many tick born diseases you should be concerned about include: **Encephalitis, Erlichiosis, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Boubonic Plague, and Lyme Disease.** Often an ounce of prevention is the only cure.

WHAT ARE THE PARTICULARS OF FLEA PREVENTION?

WHEN SHOULD I START TREATING MY PETS? If you begin treatment prior to the onset of flea season, Frontline will prevent fleas from becoming a problem on your pet. Then, use Frontline once monthly to completely control **both** fleas and ticks. The start of flea season is influenced by climate and each particular season's change. Generally in mid-Michigan flea prevention can begin as soon as June. Ticks are a potential problem as early as May.

AFTER APPLICATION HOW LONG DOES FRONTLINE TAKE TO BE EFFECTIVE? Frontline topical application must first spread in the oils of the skin over the pet's body. This process, called translocation, occurs in about 24 hours. Once fleas and ticks contact Frontline, they are killed within 24 to 48 hours.

SHOULD I REAPPLY FRONTLINE IF I SEE MORE FLEAS OR TICKS ON MY PET BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH? No. Frontline only needs to

be applied monthly. If you see fleas or ticks on your treated pet, these have likely come from your pet's environment and will soon be killed by Frontline.

SINCE FRONTLINE IS SO EFFECTIVE AGAINST FLEAS AND TICKS, IS IT GENTLE ENOUGH FOR MY PET? Frontline has been extensively tested and shown to be well tolerated by dogs and cats even at five times the recommended maximum rate on the label. Frontline has been used with confidence on millions of cats, dogs, puppies and kittens worldwide. Nothing is approved for unweaned puppies and kittens.

NOW THAT WE HAVE ADDRESSED THE MEDICAL NECESSITY OF PROTECTING OURSELVES AND OUR PETS FROM FLEAS AND TICKS, LET US REVIEW THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE MOSQUITO. Mosquitoes transmit heartworm disease by biting an infected dog, then passing the infection on to other dogs they bite. Developing heartworms migrate to the dog's heart, where they can grow up to 14 inches in length as they mature. If not removed, they can cause permanent heart and lung damage and even death. But you may not see any signs before it is too late. And once diagnosed, the treatment for heartworm disease can be dangerous and costly.

HOW DOES HEARTWORM DISEASE SPREAD? Heartworm infections are common along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and the Mississippi River Valley and its tributaries, and now have been reported in every state in America, including Alaska, and Canada. Some mosquitoes have a flight range of over 15 miles enabling them to spread the infection over great distances. In addition, dogs tend to travel more with their owners each year, and this also can increase the spread of heartworm disease.

When the weather begins to turn cold, mosquitoes often try to find protected areas such as inside your home or doghouse. So, even dogs kept mainly indoors can become infected. They are at risk, as well, when taken for walks or released in the yard.

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE? Start flea and tick prevention using a veterinarian dispensed medication. Turn the page to read more about heartworm disease in dogs and cats.

ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CAN BE ANSWERED BY CALLING OUR OFFICE.
PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, SURGERY AND DENTISTRY