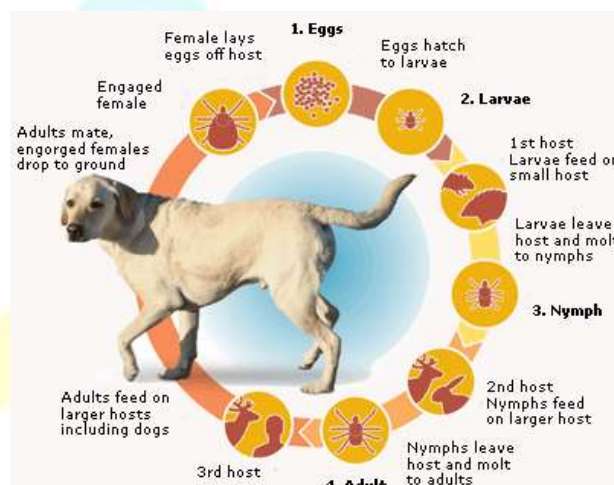
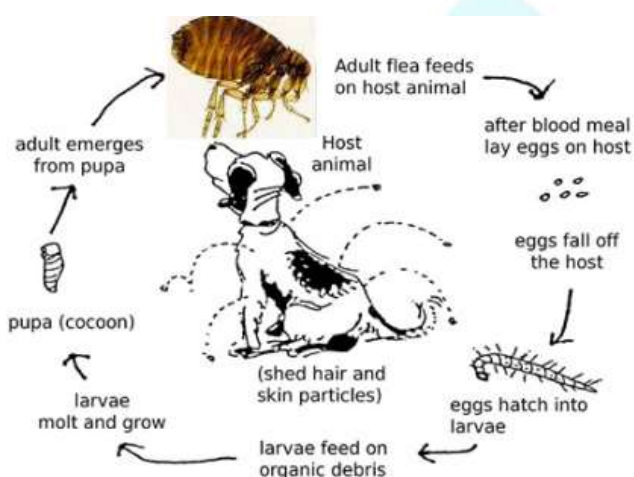


# Information Sheet – Natural Flea and Tick Solutions for Dogs



We have all heard how devastating fleas and ticks can be to our pets. Fleas are a common cause of skin irritations in dogs and can transmit parasites, and paralysis ticks (*Ixodes holocyclus*) can be fatal. Topical flea and tick treatments have gained popularity over the years for their ease of use and effectiveness in getting rid of these nasty pests. However, it seems that there are more and more cases of our pets having adverse reactions to these treatments. In fact, all the “active” ingredients in these spot-on preparations (including imidacloprid, fipronil, permethrin, methoprene, and pyriproxyfen), have been linked to serious health effects in laboratory animals (Dudley 2002). So, they can’t be that great for our pets either.

## Flea and Tick Lifecycles



## Natural Alternatives

There are many natural alternatives to using chemical treatments for fleas and ticks. **No method is 100% effective alone, so it is best to combine a few methods.** If you need to use chemical treatments, try to only use them for short periods. We also recommend a thorough daily tick search of your pet’s coat, particularly if you live in areas ticks are prevalent.



We have listed below some natural flea and tick control solutions to use topically, internally and environmentally.



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## **Apple Cider Vinegar**

Apple Cider Vinegar can be used both externally and internally to control fleas along with many other health benefits. Used internally by adding to your dogs food or water, can help to make your pets skin less appealing for fleas.

## **Baltic Amber Flea and Tick Collars**

Baltic Amber works 2 ways repelling parasites from your pet.

1. Electrostatic repellent - When your pet wears the collar, friction occurs between the Amber and the coat of your animal. This in turn creates an electrostatic charge and barrier which parasites cannot penetrate.
2. Aromatic repellent - Baltic Amber is tree resin, which is made from "Terpenes" or Hydrocarbon secretion, which effervesce with friction. This resinous smell works through the coat of your pet and deters parasites. For more info <http://ambertherapy.com.au/>

## **Diatomaceous Earth (DE)**

DE is a fine powder made up of fossilised diatoms (a type of algae). The diatoms have a cell wall of silica which is very sharp, which fleas and other insects with an exoskeleton (hard shell) are susceptible to. These fine particles pierce the insect's protective structures which cause them to dehydrate and die.

It can be used in your dog's food, and topically as a flea powder as well as around the house and on pet bedding.

It is important to get natural food grade DE, as crystalline silica is dangerous when inhaled and ingested. For more information: <http://diatomaceousearthonline.com.au/>

## **Essential Oils**

Essential oil sprays containing lavender, peppermint, geranium, lemongrass, cedar wood or citronella can be very effective to deter parasites. Either purchase a pre-blended product or work with a holistic veterinarian to make sure you're using safe oils at the correct concentration. Dog and cat doses are different, and many cats are extremely sensitive to oils, so don't guess.

Rose Geranium oil is a good repellent for ticks and can be applied topically on dogs.

## **Eucalyptus Oil**

Use this to wash your pet's bedding in the washing water as it assists in killing immature stages of the flea.

## **Fresh Garlic**

Garlic is such a controversial supplement for pets, and no matter what you read; you will usually find conflicting articles about its use. Garlic contains thiosulphate, which can cause hemolytic anemia, liver damage and death.

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However garlic only contains very small traces of thiosulphate and a dog would have to consume a large quantity for any negative effects. The health benefits of garlic are immense, from being anti-fungal and anti-viral, to boosting the immune system and making the dog less desirable to fleas. Garlic can be consumed at safe doses, however we recommend consulting with your veterinarian as there are some cases when garlic should not be fed.

### **Greenpet Fleeze Supplement**

Fleeze is a food supplement for dogs which contains garlic, apple cider vinegar, citrus and herbs. These ingredients help to make your pet not so attractive for fleas. Available at <http://www.greenpet.com.au/>

### **Herbal Flea Powders**

We recommend purchasing pre blended herbal flea powders containing a combination of Diatomaceous Earth and Neem powder.

### **Homeopathic Nosodes for Ticks**

A nosode is simply a homeopathic remedy that is made from a disease product. Like vaccines, nosodes sensitize the body to a particular virus or toxin, so the immune system can react quickly and effectively to natural exposure. In liquid form these are usually applied via a dropper to the gums of the animal. You need to see a holistic veterinarian for further advice and supply.

### **Pet Protector**

The Pet Protector Disc produces scalar waves and creates an impenetrable, protective shield around the pet. These scalar waves only effect parasites, repelling them from the shielded area. This is totally harmless and not detected by people and animals. More info [www.petprotector.org](http://www.petprotector.org)

### **Plants and Herbs**

There are a number of plants you can plant around the house to help deter fleas and ticks. Rosemary, Lavender, Mint, Lemongrass, Sage, Wormwood, Pennyroyal. It is best to grow these out of reach of pets as some can be toxic if ingested. For some extra info see: <http://www.acaciaanimalcare.com/herbs-for-insect-control.html>

### **Raw Diet**

Feeding a natural raw diet to your pets promotes healthy immune function, builds up health and therefore better resistance to fleas and ticks.

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## Sunlight

This is nature's best insecticide! Fleas and ticks like to live in dark places, not in direct sunlight. Exposing the inserts of your pet's bedding in direct sunlight for a few hours at a time will help to kill any larvae. Keeping lawns short and removing leaf litter will help to kill fleas on the ground by exposing them to sunlight.

## Tick Stop

Tick Stop is a non-toxic, chemical free homeopathic nosode. It is available from Animal Options Veterinary clinic. <http://www.animaloptions.com.au/product/tick-stop/>

## Important Stuff!

### So important we decided to repeat some things...

- No method is 100% effective alone, so it is best to combine a few methods.
- If you need to use chemical treatments, try to only use them for short periods.
- Daily searching of your dog for ticks is highly recommended - in particular on the face, ears, eyes, in-between toes and around the genital area.
- Seek urgent veterinary assistance if you find a tick on your dog or cat.
- Make sure you control the fleas in the environment as well as on your pet.
- Cats are sensitive to some treatments so please seek veterinary advice if you are unsure.

## Disclaimer

This information is intended as a guide only and is not intended to replace the advice given by a veterinarian.

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