

## The solutions to pests

Last time we talked about the problems and dangers of the most common pests in our area: fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and mites. But for truly effective control and prevention of fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and mites, you need more help. We have the top products with vet recommended ingredients, and by using the following products, along with the practical steps below, you can tackle and beat infestations.



**IMPORTANT:** *Dog formulas must never be used on cats, as they can have bad reactions to them. Always use the appropriate formula for the type and weight of your pet.*

Treatments: There are a few different categories of active ingredients in these preventatives.

**Chemical/pesticide:** These are synthetic compounds that effectively kill fleas and ticks. Many of them (pyrethroids from chrysanthemums, fipronil, and others) kill fleas and ticks by inhibiting or affecting the insect's nervous system. Some, like methoprene, actually prevent immature nymphs from developing into breeding adults, breaking the cycle of infestation.



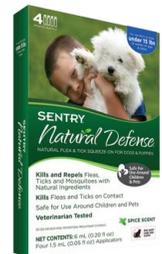
**ZoGuard Plus** contains fipronil and methoprene, two of the top active ingredients, both found in FRONTLINE Plus. It provides the same great protection at a better value compared to FRONTLINE Plus.

**Shield Tec home and carpet spray** is for indoor use on floors, carpets, and furniture to help control infestations by continuing to kill and stop pests for up to 7 months. It also works on ants and cockroaches

**Bio Spot Active Care** contains etofenprox (a pyrethroid) and methoprene to kill fleas and ticks. BioSpot also repels and controls chewing lice and mosquitoes, helping protect your dog from heartworm. Each tube protects your dog or cat for 30 days, so reapply for constant protection.

**Herbal/essential oil:** Besides smelling great, the oils of cloves, citrus, and cinnamon actually contain a compound that interferes with a neurotransmitter (octopamine) in the insect's nervous system. As mammals, fish and birds have no receptors for octopamine, the ingredients do not have this affect on them... or people! It's a natural and effective way to control fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes.

**Sentry Natural Defense:** Essential oil based spot treatment is applied between the animal's shoulder blades to both kill any pests instantly and provide continuous protection. Apply every 30 days year round to keep them protected.



**Surfactants:** Sodium lauryl sulfate lowers the surface tension between ingredients, which is why it's used as a cleansing and foaming agent. It works by stripping a flea's or tick's protective wax coating, causing them to die from dehydration. It is often found mixed with other products to be even more effective.

**Tropiclean:** With a home spray, carpet powder, dog and bedding spray, and shampoo, they combine essential oils and sodium lauryl sulfate to effectively kill fleas and ticks on contact and keep them away. These are safe to use on both cats and dogs.

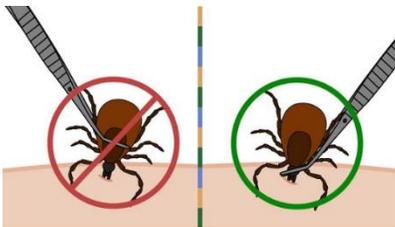


### Practical steps:

In addition to your chosen treatment, there are some practical things you need to do to help rid yourself of infestations of these pesky pests:

**Mites:** Treating mites is easy, but requires several steps. Since mites can hide out in porous surfaces, remove all soft materials from the cage, such as wood and paper bedding, wooden huts, houses, and toys. Use newspaper as a substrate while treating mites. Plastic and ceramic decorations and dishes are fine to leave in the cage. Use a mite spray every second or third day, on your pet and their cage.

**Ticks** do not infest homes, but proper removal is very important and needs to be done carefully. If you leave the head behind, the tick will live and continue to feed. Contrary to old wive's tales, do not use any chemicals, such as lighter fluid, petroleum jelly, or nail polish remover, nor should you try to burn them off. None of these methods are totally effective in removing these parasites, and could cause infection. Use a pair of tweezers, grab the tick as close to the skin as possible.



Draw the tick out, using steady and direct pressure. Do not twist when doing this, as it can damage the tick and leave parts behind. For best results, use one hand to hold the tweezers and pull, and use the other hand to hold the skin firmly in place. Clean the skin and treat with topical antibiotics. Keep an eye out for any infection, fever, headache, or rash afterwards; if you suspect any problems or infections, contact your doctor or your vet.

**Fleas:** Treating fleas requires a multi-prong approach as they are a more tenacious. First, begin by thoroughly vacuuming all carpet and upholstery. Vacuum heavily trafficked areas daily and other areas weekly. Although it is believed that the force of vacuuming kills the fleas and larvae, ensure that they don't emerge from the bag or canister by sealing it in a plastic bag and disposing of it. Placing a paper towel sprayed with your choice of flea killer in the bag or canister can kill off ones that are still alive. If you do any travelling with your pet (such as visits to the vet for flea treatments), be sure to vacuum your car; all the treatments and work in the home will not work if the fleas are still infesting your car. Then, wash all pet bedding frequently in very hot water to kill eggs and larvae. Bathe your pet in a quality flea and tick shampoo for 15 minutes to drown fleas.



Pests like fleas and ticks can be very difficult to deal with, both for you and your pet. With our practical steps and the best vet recommended products, they can be beat, you can keep your pet healthy and pest free. Stop by any time and speak to our trained staff about the best solutions for you and your pets.