

Topical and Oral Flea & Tick Control: General FAQs

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What is a topical flea and tick treatment?

A topical flea and tick treatment is a spot-on product, such as [Bio Spot® Defense Spot On®](#) for Dogs, or [Frontline® Plus for Dogs](#), that is applied to the skin between the shoulders. These monthly products fight ticks and fleas for at least 30 days. For maximum protection, [K9 Advantix II for Dogs](#) contains an Insect Growth Regulator (IGR), an ingredient that works to prevent flea eggs and larvae from developing. K9 Advantix II for Dogs is also water-resistant, which makes it ideal for dogs that swim or are bathed frequently.

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What is an oral treatment?

An example would be a product like [Program](#), a monthly pill that breaks the flea life cycle by keeping flea eggs and larvae from developing. Program is given once a month, and can be combined with a product that kills adult fleas, like bioSpot SPOT ON for Dogs, for added protection. Another example of an oral product is [Capstar](#), a pill that kills adult fleas within 30 minutes and lasts for 24 hours. Capstar is a quick solution for flea-infested pets and can be used daily if needed. Program and Capstar work on fleas only, not on ticks.

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What is the advantage of using a topical monthly treatment for ticks and fleas instead of a shampoo, dip or a spray?

[Monthly topicals](#) are an extremely popular choice for flea and tick control because they are so easy to apply and do not need to be re-applied for 30 days. [Shampoos, dips and sprays](#) can be messy, time-consuming and stressful for your pet. They may also be impractical in colder weather. In addition, these products just can't offer the longer-lasting protection of spot-on flea and tick treatments.

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