Cat Flea & Tick Preventive Comparison by Region

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Depending on where you live and the level of your cat's exposure to the outdoors, you may need to be concerned about fleas. Taking preventive measures for your pet and your home is a far easier solution than trying to eradicate a flea infestation. Following are five common scenarios that we hope will help you choose the most effective flea protection you'll need for your cat.

Choose the Right Flea & Tick Product That Works Best for Your Needs		
Area Affected	**Our Customers' Scenarios**	**Our Doctors' Recommendations**
Cat in the Southern States:	Stacy moved from the northern plains of Iowa to Arkansas, and is surprised at the increased number of fleas and ticks. Since it is warm all year long, she is finding she needs to keep a topical flea/tick preventive on her cat year-round. She also needs to watch that her house doesn't get flea infested, so she invested in some sprays for the house and her backyard.	For an effective topical treatment, we recommend Advantage® II Flea Control for Cats. bioSpot Flea & Tick Spray for Cats would be excellent for Stacy's indoor environment, such as on her pet's bedding. We recommend bioSpot Home Protection Kit for the rest of her cat's

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		indoor environment.
Urban Cat (Eastern):	Derek lives in a New York City high-rise with his cat and dog. Although his cat stays indoors, he walks his dog every morning and evening and encounters other dogs in obedience class. In order to prevent his cat from getting fleas his dog may have come in contact with, he chose to use an oral flea preventive and also purchased a mist that protects against all stages of a flea's life cycle. Derek didn't need to use a collar or any other flea product.	An oral flea preventive like Program for Cats prevents eggs from hatching. bioSpot Flea & Tick Spray for Cats protects cat and bedding, even the car.
Midwest Cat with Allergies:	Missy lives in southern Minnesota and has a cat with Flea Allergy Dermatitis, or FAD. The bite of just one flea can leave her cat scratching for days, since her cat is allergic to components in the flea's saliva. It is important that whatever flea prevention she uses must be highly effective, eliminating different forms of the flea life cycle, including adults, eggs, and larvae.	Bio Spot Defense Flea & Tick Spot On® for Cats is an ideal choice for Missy's Cat. We would also suggest keeping her cat indoors, and using a Flea Comb daily.
Water-loving Cats in the Northwest:	Lonny lives in Washington and has two Turkish Vans, a breed known for loving to play in water. He has a small pond in his enclosed backyard that he allows his cats to play in while he does his yard work or gardening in the summer. Since they are in and out of the water so frequently in warm weather, Lonny's cats need a product that	For cats who enjoy

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	doesn't have to be reapplied after his cats get wet.	For cats who enjoy water, we suggest Advantage® II Flea Control for Cats effective after swimming or bathing.
Contact Dermatitis in the Mountain States:	Some cats may be sensitive to certain flea products. Thelma lives in Colorado and the topical protection she most recently used caused her cat to have a mild skin reaction. Thelma wants to try a different topical this year. The effectiveness of the product was not in question, and even though her pet was sensitive to one topical product, it does not mean that she couldn't try another one or even monthly oral control.	Advantage® II Flea Control for Cats, a topical, or Program for Cats, a monthly oral preventive, are both on our recommended list.

Flea & Tick Prevention has Never Been EASIER - Use the Recommended Products Above to KEEP Fleas OFF Your Cats and OUT of Your Home...

Note: We generally recommend using only one flea/tick control product on your cat at a time. You may use a topical on the pet and a product to control fleas in the environment, but you generally should not need to use two topical flea and tick products on your pet at the same time.

Why Control Fleas?

While many cats live with fleas and show minimal signs of infestation, control is advisable because:

- The cat flea carries the larval stage of the tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum*. Cats can be infested with these worms by eating fleas during grooming.
- Fleas have the potential to transmit other infectious agents.
- Adult fleas feed on cats' blood, and in young kittens, this can cause anemia. Anemic kittens become very weak.
- Some cats develop an allergy to flea bites, which causes them to scratch excessively or develop skin infections.
- Cat fleas can cause itchy bites on sensitive humans.

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