CLIENT HANDOUT

External Parasite Prevention: Quick-Reference FAQs



Q: Why does my pet need year-round parasite prevention?

A: Fleas, ticks, and mites pose a year-round risk as temperatures rise and winters become more mild, allowing parasites to develop and reproduce faster, expand their geographic ranges, and stay active longer. Year-round prevention eliminates guesswork and infestation.

Q: What external parasites could affect my pet?

A: Common external parasites and associated risks include:

- **Fleas:** Itching, allergies, and disease transmission (e.g., cat scratch disease)
- **Ticks:** Lyme disease and other illnesses
- **Mites:** Ear and skin infections, hair loss; some species are contagious to pets or people

Q: My pet never goes outside. Why do they need prevention?

A: Fleas and ticks can travel indoors on people or other pets, and flea infestations can persist indoors for months after treatment. Ear mites and scabies mites can also spread through close contact with other infected pets.

Q: How do I choose a flea and tick preventive?

A: Your choice of preventive depends on your pet's lifestyle and your preferences. Our team may recommend an oral, topical, or injectable formulation—ask us which product is best for you and your pet's needs.

The chart below outlines the pros and cons of each basic type of preventive medication.

Q: How can I protect my pet from external parasites?

A: You can minimize parasite exposure risks for your pet by:

- Washing bedding and vacuuming carpets frequently
- Checking your pet for ticks after outdoor time
- Administering preventive medications year-round
- Never using dog products on cats

Have more questions? Call our team to schedule a parasite control consultation and find the best products and strategies for your pet.

PREVENTIVE TYPE	DOSING FREQUENCY	BEST FOR	NOT RECOMMENDED FOR
Oral veterinary-approved medication	1 to 3 months	Hassle-free dosing, broad coverage, pets that swim/bathe frequently	Picky eaters, pets with a sensitive stomach or history of seizures
Topical veterinary-approved medication	1 to 3 months	Basic to broad parasite coverage, picky eaters	Pets that will be bathed within 72 hours of application
Prescription flea and tick collar	6 to 8 months	Hassle-free protection	Pets that swim/bathe frequently