HAPPY CAMPERS

e-Book

Fleas, Oh My

I can't seem to get rid of them, HELP!

Love Your Pet As A Child

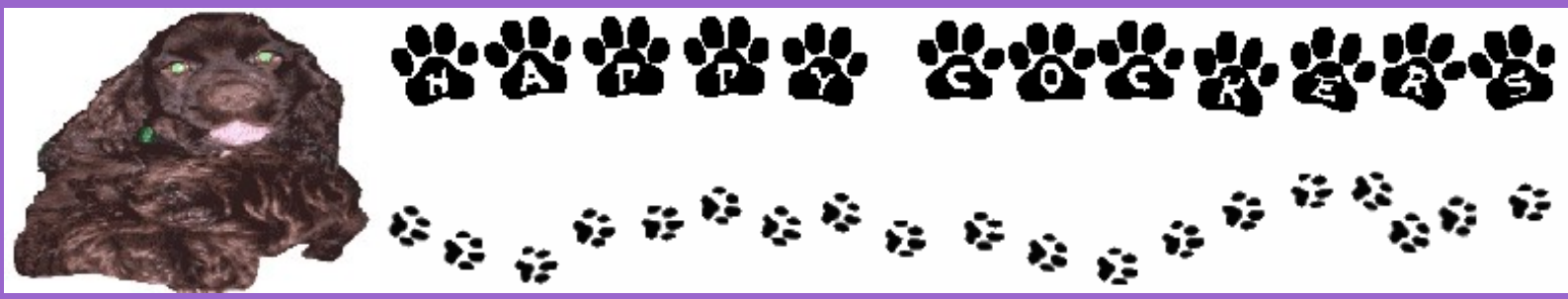
HAPPY COCKERS

Adult Flea

Fleas: are an external parasite that can carry disease to both you and your cocker spaniel. Do whatever you possibly can to not allow fleas to become a member of your family.

Fleas are very easy to get and very, very difficult to get rid of. Fleas are much easier to deal with when you have an active plan to maintain there population.

Zero fleas is the true goal of any pet lover.



One of the diseases you can get from fleas is the:

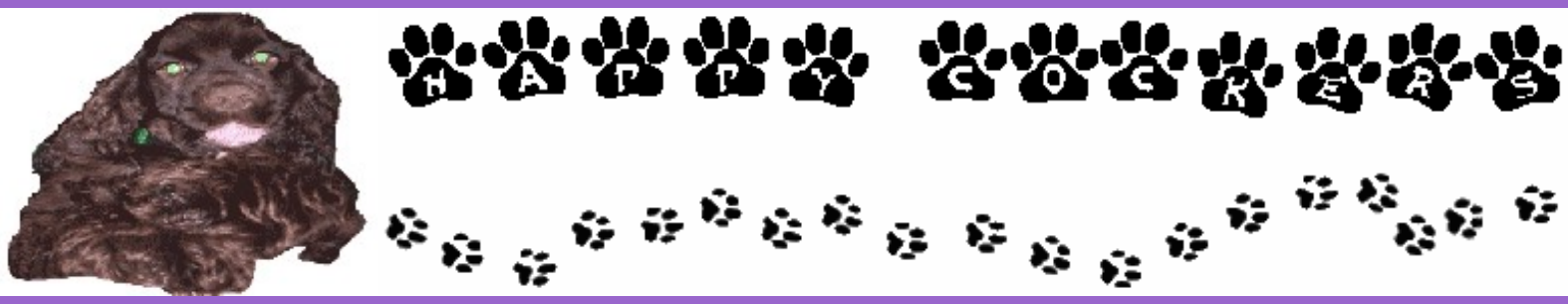
BUBONIC PLAGUE

I am certain that you have heard of this disease. It has killed millions of people in history. It is estimated that the plague killed roughly 100 million people out of 450 million people during the 1400s.

Worldwide, there are about 2000 cases each year with about 20 of them from the United States. 1 in 7 people die from the disease.

This is simply one of many diseases and parasites that fleas can carry.

Fleas crawl underneath your dogs coat and bites and sucks your dogs blood. This causes very severe itching and your dog is going to respond by scratching. Scratching in turn, causes eczema.



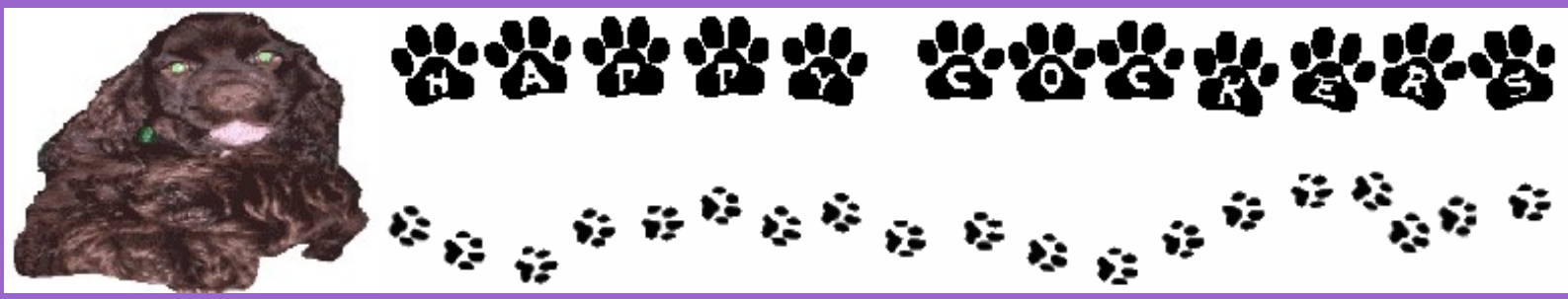
Life Cycle of the Flea

In order to control the flea problems in your environment, you must understand the fleas life cycle.

The life cycle of a flea is from egg to larva to pupa to adult, then we start all over again.

Fleas have been around for a very long time and have managed to adapt to many different host animals. A flea is capable of going through a complete cycle of life in less than a month or extend their lives to nearly two years. They do not need any food for up to 20 months. They do this by remaining in the pupa stage.

To get rid of the fleas in your home or the dogs environment, you must break this cycle. This usually means that you will have to repeat your initial efforts, up to almost two years.



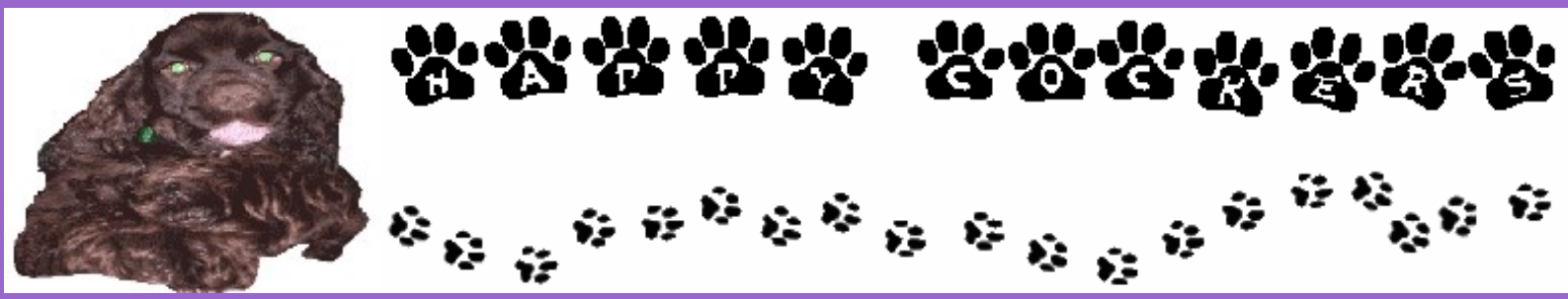
Fortunately, flea control has come a long way over the years.

Keep in mind that there are regional differences in flea control. Most flea issues in North America are from the Cat flea, but there are several different fleas by region. Seek the advice of your local veterinarian or groomer to see what is effective in your area.

There are several methods you can use to get rid of or discourage fleas and maintain the environment. These include flea collars, powders, shampoos, dips, room and yard sprays , foggers, powders, and electronic devices.

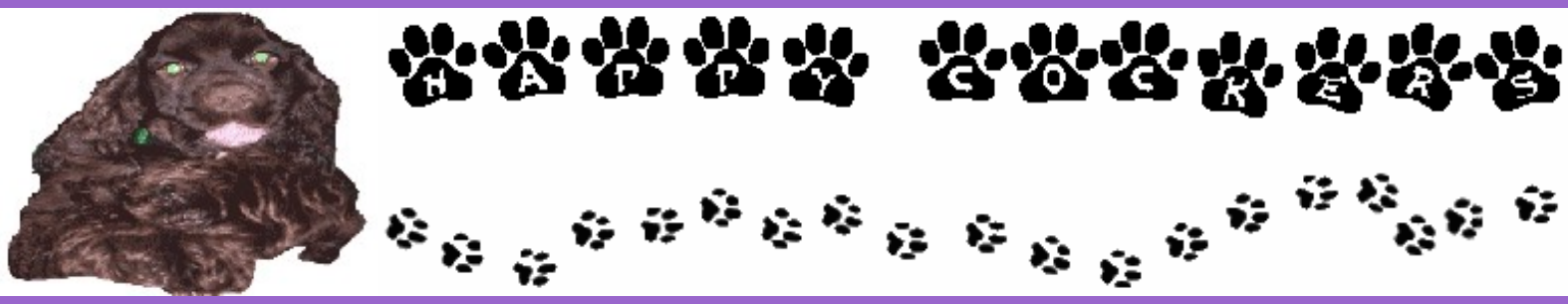
To complicate matters even more, different flea products have a wide variety of effects. Some products kill on contact, while others contain insect growth regulators (IGRs) that prevent the flea eggs from hatching and the larva from growing into adults. Some of the flea products have residual effects, which means they last a very long time, while others break down quickly after they have done their job.

Some products contain both the fast acting chemicals and the long lasting ones, or any combination thereof.

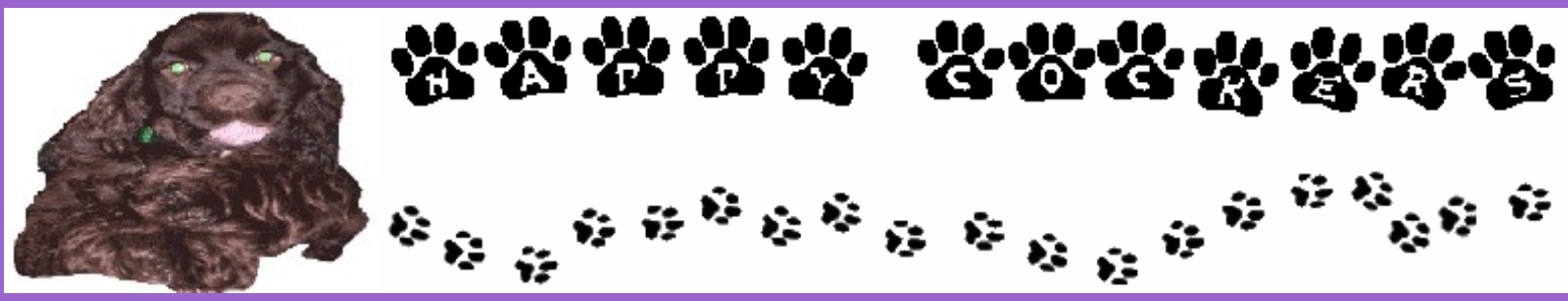


Some of the chemicals used are:

Fipronil: Fipronil attaches itself to the oils in your dogs skin and coat. It is not water soluable, but can be removed with alcohol or shampoo. It is selectively toxic to insects so it is non-toxic to humans or animals and it kills on contact. It is applied to the skin in a liquid form. Fipronil can be used on both pups and dogs. It is much more effective when used a few days after bathing your dog.
Imadacloprid: Imadacloprod is much like fipronil except it washes off if your dog gets wet.
Pyrethrins: These chemicals are extracted from flowers. They directly act on the nervous system of the adult flea, killing them rapidly. These chemicals are relatively safe due to their low toxicity and they have no residual properties.
Permethrin: This is a synthetic form of pyrethrin but it does not act in the same manner. It is absorbed into the skin and spreads throught your dogs layer of fat.Some dogs are very sensitive to this effect.Permethrin has residual properties and is not fast acting, so you will usually find it used in combination with pyrethrin in order to get the best of both worlds. This chemical is effective on both fleas and ticks.
Pyripoxyfen: This chemical is similar to previously mentioned fipronil. It is usually found in combination with permethrin to give residual effects against fleas and ticks.



Organophosphates: This is the WMD(weapon of mass destruction) of flea control. This chemical is toxic to both humans and dogs and should only be used as the last resort. It is a heavy duty insecticide and much care should be taken if considering its usage. Please be aware of all necessary precautions when handling and using this chemical.
Methoprene: This is not a poison, but an insect hormone that interrupts the flea cycle by preventing fleas from reproducing. It takes several weeks for the hormone to actually break the cycle because it does not kill the adult fleas. This is more of a preventative control when flea infestation is minimal.
Lufenuron: An IGR that stops fleas from producing chitin in various stages of their life. Chitin is the major component in a flea's exoskeleton. The pupas in the eggs can not eat their way out of the egg since their teeth are made of chitin. Also, when the larvae molt, they are unable to produce an exoskeleton, so they soon perish. This product can only be purchased through your veterinarian and is administered by adding to your pets food. It is absorbed in the intestinal tract of your dog and transferred to the outer skin through the dog's circulatory system. Like methoprene, this is more of a preventative control when flea infestation is minimal.



Now you can determine what each product actually does by its chemical makeup. Regarless of the commercialization, each flea control product has what chemicals are in it on the label.

It is much easier to maintain your home and dog's environment from fleas than to try and get rid of them, but if you are infested with fleas, utilize these tips:

1. Bleach kills fleas on contact, so clean your pets environment with bleach. Be careful of the vapors inherit with the usage of bleach and never ever combine bleach with a pine sol type cleaner because they will chemical react to form a toxic gas that can harm both you and your pets.
2. Before applying a flea chemical or powder to your carpets, vacuum first. This may seem backwards, but vacuuming causing the pupa to hatch and the larvae to become active. This activity allows the flea control process you use to be more effective.
3. If you are applying a topical, wait until after two or three days from bathing your dog before applying. This will allow the natural oils in your dog's skin and coat to rejuvinate after bathing.
4. Dip your pet to eliminate the majority of adult fleas on the dog(s), while cleaning and treating your carpets. Launder all washable items that your pet uses and/or can harbor fleas. Use a residual chemical or IGR to prevent recurrence of the problem.

HAPPY COCKERS

Keep in mind that you may have to do all of these things again in a couple of weeks to break the flea cycle. It is much easier to prevent flea infestation than to break the cycle of the flea.

We truly hope that this eBook has been helpful to your understanding of the control of fleas. We repeat the underlining idea of prevention rather than to fight the infestation since there is absolutely no reason to allow your dog(d) or your family to suffer through the agonizing war you have to declare once infested with fleas. It can be a very draining process to eliminate them, let alone, the agony they cause on everyone that gets in contact with them. They create irritating soars on all in contact with them, let alone, the diseases or parasites you can get from them.

Please distribute this eBook freely to all of your pet friends in order for them to understand that an ounce of prevention is worth more than the problems that can become relavent quickly by not doing so.

You can find many of the flea control products mentioned through one of our affilliates on our website (www.happycockers.com). A small percentage of each purchase helps us maintain the site.