

Dog & Small Animals Vet

Jo Whitney BSc(Vet) BVSc

Jo is kindly filling in for Adam Gordon this edition.

Jo Whitney graduated from the University of Sydney in 2004. She worked in small animal practice for a few years before deciding to further her knowledge. She currently works as a Postgraduate Intern at the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Sydney.



Dear Vet,

I often get confused with all the different flea treatments in my pet store or at my local vet. I have a dog who once he gets a flea seems to get an allergy. Some treatments seem to treat other things like heartworm and I just get confused as to which one is right for us to use.

Thanks,
Kay

Dear Kay,

I agree - there certainly are a lot of flea treatments available and it can get a bit confusing trying to determine which one is suitable for your dog. At this time of year many people become frustrated trying to control fleas and often go searching for alternative treatments. The main things to consider when selecting a suitable flea control treatment for an animal are:

- What parasites do you want the product to treat?
- Is the product being applied correctly?
- Is the product safe to be used in your animal?

The easiest way to select a flea product is to consider what other parasites your pet needs to be protected against. I consider regular treatment for fleas, intestinal worms, tapeworm and heartworm a must for all dogs. Depending on their circumstances, tick prevention and mite treatment may also be necessary.

In the last few years an increasing number of veterinary 'spot on' products have become available. These are the little ampoules of liquid you apply to the skin on the back of the neck they are used to control fleas as well as a number of other parasites. I have drawn you a table of the 'spot on' products that are available (located on the following left-hand page) at pet stores and vets and what parasites they cover. I have also included one for cats.

In short, if your dog is already receiving a heartworm tablet or an annual heartworm injection then you should use Advantage, Advantix or Frontline for flea control. However, if your dog is not on regular heartworm prevention, using Advocate or Revolution may be appropriate after he has been tested for heartworm infection by his regular vet. As none of these products treat for tapeworm and only some for intestinal worms, you should also give a tapewormer or allwormer every 3 months.

Once you have selected the product you wish to use, it is very important that it is applied according to the directions on the packet. I often meet dog owners who are disheartened by the product they are using, but on further questioning I find they are not using it appropriately. In general, 'spot on' flea products should be used every 4 weeks to prevent fleas on animals and in the environment. It is also necessary to treat all of the animals in the house. Although only some animals may suffer from flea allergy and appear to be the most in need of treatment, it may be their other furry friends who are the source of the problem.

Even though the same fleas can affect a number of different species, the same flea treatments are not always appropriate.

Dog vet continues...

ALL YOUR PET & VET NEEDS DISCOUNT SUPERSTORE

SAVE UP TO
50%

CHOOSE YOUR
FREE GIFT when you
spend \$75
or more

For online and telephone orders please use coupon code URB39 to receive your free gift.



- > Thousands of products
- > Biggest brands & generics
- > Money-back guarantee*
- > Fast delivery, Australia wide
- > No hassle ordering, quick & reliable

Visit us online for all your pet needs. Thousands of products for the control of fleas, ticks, intestinal worms, plus shampoos, grooming needs, toys, treats and much more.

Summer Catalogue Out Now!

vet-n-pet DIRECT
ORDER ONLINE
www.vetnpetdirect.com.au
or phone 1300 726 966

Prices are valid until 30th June 2009. Vet-N-Pet Direct recommends you have your pets on a year round preventative health care programme formulated in consultation with your veterinarian. Always read the label and use only as directed. For additional product or ordering information visit our website www.vetnpetdirect.com.au or call 1300 726 966. *Conditions apply, see the website for details. †Postage is more for orders over 1kg. Registered trade marks are those of their rightful company's.

Make a selection below from our most popular products or visit our online store for thousands more.

Brand	Price	Qty	Total
ADVANTAGE®			
Kittens & Small Cats 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 4	29.10		
Kittens & Small Cats 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 6	40.50		
Large Cats Over 4kg, 0.8ml x 4	31.00		
Large Cats Over 4kg, 0.8ml x 6	42.75		
Puppies & Small Dogs 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 4	30.50		
Puppies & Small Dogs 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 6	43.90		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 4	32.80		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 6	45.95		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 4	34.50		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 6	48.25		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 4	35.65		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 6	51.60		
ADVANTIX®			
Puppies & Small Dogs 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 3	29.20		
Puppies & Small Dogs 0-4kg, 0.4ml x 6	47.55		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 3	30.00		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 6	51.00		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 3	32.10		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 6	54.50		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 3	35.45		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 6	57.30		
ADVOCATE®			
Kittens & Small Cats Up to 4kg, 0.4ml x 3	30.75		
Kittens & Small Cats Up to 4kg, 0.4ml x 6	54.70		
Large Cats Over 4kg, 0.8ml x 3	32.15		
Large Cats Over 4kg, 0.8ml x 6	58.10		
Puppies & Small Dogs Up to 4kg, 0.4ml x 3	38.25		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 3	43.25		
Dogs 4-10kg, 1.0ml x 6	74.85		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 3	41.65		
Dogs 10-25kg, 2.5ml x 6	79.25		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 3	47.65		
Dogs Over 25kg, 4.0ml x 6	89.25		
FRONTLINE PLUS®			
Cats, 0.5ml x 3	32.05		
Cats, 0.5ml x 6	54.50		
Small Dogs Up to 10kg, 0.67ml x 3	32.45		
Small Dogs Up to 10kg, 0.67ml x 6	55.30		
Medium Dogs 10 to 20kg, 1.34ml x 3	33.55		
Medium Dogs 10 to 20kg, 1.34ml x 6	57.90		
Large Dogs 20 to 40kg, 2.68ml x 3	35.70		
Large Dogs 20 to 40kg, 2.68ml x 6	60.70		
Extra Large Dogs 40 to 60kg, 4.02ml x 3	37.30		
Extra Large Dogs 40 to 60kg, 4.02ml x 6	64.10		
HEARTGARD PLUS®			
Dogs Up to 11kg (blue), 6 Chews	31.00		
Dogs 12-22kg (green), 6 Chews	35.85		
Dogs 23-45kg (brown), 6 Chews	41.55		

Brand	Price	Qty	Total
INTERCEPTOR SPECTRUM®			
Dogs Up to 4kg (brown), 6 Tablets	29.50		
Dogs 4-11kg (green), 6 Tablets	32.60		
Dogs 11-22kg (yellow), 6 Tablets	37.95		
Dogs 22-45kg (white), 6 Tablets	43.95		
JOINT SUPPLEMENTS (Canine)			
Sasha's Blend Powder 250g	46.50		
PROHEART®			
Dogs 0-11kg (blue), 6 Tablets	19.20		
Dogs 11-22kg (green), 6 Tablets	22.60		
Dogs 23-45kg (red), 6 Tablets	25.80		
Dogs 46-68kg (yellow), 6 Tablets	31.25		
REVOLUTION®			
Pups/Kittens 0-2.5kg (pink), 0.25ml x 3	34.30		
Cats 2.6-7.5kg (blue), 0.75ml x 3	35.50		
Cats 2.6-7.5kg (blue), 0.75ml x 6	63.30		
Dogs 2.6-5kg (purple), 0.25ml x 3	38.20		
Dogs 2.6-5kg (purple), 0.25ml x 6	72.75		
Dogs 5.1-10kg (brown), 0.5ml x 3	40.20		
Dogs 5.1-10kg (brown), 0.5ml x 6	77.40		
Dogs 10.1-20kg (red), 1.0ml x 3	42.50		
Dogs 10.1-20kg (red), 1.0ml x 6	81.70		
Dog 20.1-40kg (teal), 2.0ml x 3	47.30		
Dog 20.1-40kg (teal), 2.0ml x 6	91.05		
SENTINEL SPECTRUM®			
Dogs Up to 4kg (brown), 6 Tablets	61.00		
Dogs 4-11kg (green), 6 Tablets	66.70		
Dogs 11-22kg (yellow), 6 Tablets	71.40		
Dogs 22-45kg (white), 6 Tablets	78.00		
VALUHEART®			
Small Dogs 0-10kg, 6 Tablets	12.80		
Medium Dogs 11-20kg, 6 Tablets	14.45		
Large Dogs 21-40kg, 6 Tablets	16.00		
ALLWORMERS			
Canine Allwormer 10kg 6's	19.60		
Canine Allwormer 10kg 40's	70.00		
Canine Allwormer 10kg 100's	165.00		
Drontal Chews 10kg 2's	11.40		
Drontal Chews 10kg 5's	25.20		
Drontal Chews 10kg 20's	94.30		
Drontal Chews 35kg 2's	28.90		
Profender Cats 2.5-5kg 2's	20.30		
Profender Cats 5-8kg 2's	22.35		
7 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE*			SUB-TOTAL
CHOOSE YOUR GIFT IF YOU HAVE SPENT \$75 OR MORE*			POSTAGE \$4.95
Gourmet Health Bar for Dogs 90g			FREE
Love'em Liver Treats for Cats 90g			FREE
			TOTAL

ORDER NOW!
Phone, Online, Mail or Fax

MAIL TO: VET-N-PET DIRECT
REPLY PAID 193
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
(no stamp required)

ONLINE: www.vetnpetdirect.com.au
PHONE: 1300 726 966
FAX: (07) 3337 9777
EMAIL: support@vetnpetdirect.com.au

*Please allow up to 7 days for metropolitan area deliveries.
All prices include GST.

I enclose my cheque/money order for \$_____ made payable to
Vet-N-Pet Direct or please charge my credit card:

Visa MasterCard Bankcard Amex (please tick one)

Card no. _____ Expiry Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Daytime telephone (____) _____

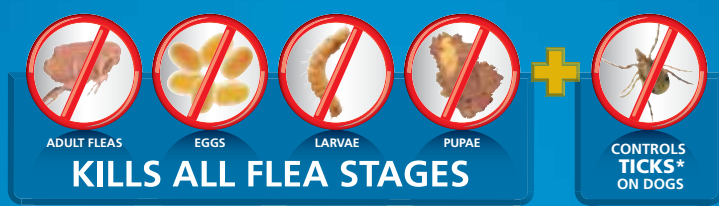
Please tick this box if you would like to receive further information from Vet-N-Pet Direct.

"TRUST FRONTLINE PLUS® TO STOP BIG TROUBLE WITH FLEA NUMBERS."



FRONTLINE PLUS is the only spot-on that kills all stages of the flea life cycle.

To stop one flea becoming ten, hundreds or even thousands you can rely on Australia's Number 1 flea and tick treatment*, FRONTLINE PLUS. It's water fast and has two active ingredients that kill all flea stages for a whole month. And it controls ticks* on dogs too.



FRONTLINE
Recommended by Veterinarians. *Plus*®

www.frontlineplus.com.au



*For control of paralysis ticks on dogs, FRONTLINE PLUS must be applied every 2 weeks. For tick control on cats use FRONTLINE® SPRAY every 3 weeks. Always read the label instructions. *FRONTLINE PLUS was the highest selling flea and tick treatment in Australia in 2008.

Merial Australia Pty Ltd, Level 6, 79 George Street, Parramatta NSW 2150. ABN 53 071 187 285. ©FRONTLINE and FRONTLINE PLUS are registered trademarks of Merial. ©2009 Merial Limited. All rights reserved. FRLN-08-137. H&T MCA0392/UA.



VetStop Shop

Stop paying too much!

All you need for your pet:

Flea control, heartworm, supplements, joint care, treats, toys, ear care, beds, dental care & much, much more ...

www.vetstop.com.au



Dog vet continues...

Flea products are registered for certain species, ages and weights following extensive testing of their effectiveness and safety. It is very important that the correct product is used, not only so that you get rid of the fleas but also to prevent harming your pet. Certain products can be toxic in some species but not in others. Of particular concern are products that contain Permethrin, such as Advantix and many supermarket products. Except in very low doses Permethrin is extremely toxic to cats and can cause muscle tremors, seizures and death. The toxin can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled if used as a powder, or ingested. Cases of poisoning have even been reported in cats that have been in close contact with dogs onto which Permethrin has been applied. Recent studies examining adverse reactions to flea products in cats in Australia and overseas found that most of these were associated with the Permethrin toxicity. In the majority of cases a product registered for use in dogs only had been applied to the cat. Only products that are designed specifically for cats should be used in cats. It is never appropriate to apply any dog products to a cat. Any cats suspected of coming into contact with these products require immediate veterinary attention.

Another species with which you need to be very careful is rabbits. Frontline should also never be used in rabbits as it has been reported to cause convulsions and death. The only 'spot on' product registered for use in rabbits in Australia is Advantix.

I hope that I have helped clear up some of the mystery around the ever-growing number of flea treatments. Your dog's annual health check or vaccination is an excellent time for you to review parasite control with your veterinarian.

DOGS	Fleas	Intestinal worms	Tapeworm	Heartworm	Mites	Lice	Ticks
Advantage	✓						
Advantix	✓						✓
Advocate	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Frontline Plus	✓						✓
Revolution	✓			✓	✓		
Excel Pet for Dogs	✓						

CATS	Fleas	Intestinal worms	Tapeworm	Heartworm	Mites	Lice	Ticks
Advantage	✓						
Advocate	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Frontline Plus	✓						
Revolution	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Advantix and Excel Spot On for Dogs are toxic to cats.

Cat Vet



Melissa Catt BVSc MACVSc (feline)
Paddington Cat Hospital

Melissa graduated from the University of Sydney in 1990. She worked in a private small animal practice in Adelaide for two years and then in England for a further two years. Melissa continued in private practice on her return to Sydney before starting Paddington Cat Hospital with her husband, Randolph Baral, in 1997. Melissa is interested in all aspects of feline medicine and has a particular liking for soft tissue surgery. Of course, Melissa was nominatively destined for feline medicine.

183 Glenmore Road, Paddington NSW 2021
Phone: (02) 9380 6111 Website: www.catvet.com.au

My 6-month-old British Shorthair has been diagnosed with Cheyletiellosis or 'walking dandruff'. He started out with flaking on his skin which soon became itchy. Our vet gave us a regimen to follow with treatment and we seem to have come through the worst of it. I guess my question is twofold - how do we prevent this coming back and is it likely that he had it before we picked him up from the breeder? We're not sure what 'safe' insecticides we should use. The vet said that this mite is quite common, especially in younger cats, but we have no idea how he would have picked it up.

Terri R.

Dear Terri,

Isn't the term walking dandruff so wonderfully descriptive!

Cheyletiellosis is caused by a mite infestation. Cats are the primary host for the mite Cheyletiella blakei (dogs usually get a different species). However, it's worth noting that other animals including people can become infected. Cats become infected by direct contact with another infected animal, or rarely from the environment. Only the adult mite is capable of living off the animal host; the other forms (eggs, larvae and nymphs) can only survive on the animal. It's possible for the adult mite to live for about two days in the environment (there have been reports of up to 10 days).

The dermis or skin is affected- the mite doesn't burrow deeply, and the mite is big enough that it can sometimes be seen on the animal with the naked eye- hence the name 'walking dandruff'! Cats will often groom themselves enough that you don't get to see the mites, though. Your description of flaking skin is typical- it usually mainly affects the 'dorsum' or over the back and tail base area. It is often not itchy, but can be so, as with your kitten. The appearance of Cheyletiellosis is a pretty typical one, but diagnosis can only be confirmed by visualising the actual mites or their mouthparts under the microscope.

The mite is more commonly seen on younger cats and kittens, but it's not really seen very much these days because most of the products used for fleas are also effective against Cheyletiella.

To answer the question about how your cat got the infection in the first place- it would have been through contact with another infected cat, or much less likely from environmental contamination. It tends to be highly contagious. If there is no chance this could have happened at your end, then the most likely explanation would be that he was carrying it already when you brought him home.

Does your pet suffer from arthritis?

Great Value JOINT HEALTH PRODUCTS



Pernaese Powder

Daily supplement

Available in 125g and 250g pack size.



Fido's Glucosamine Tablets

Honey Flavoured

Available in 100, 250 and 500 pack size.



"Ask your reseller about the Pernaese 35 Day Challenge Guarantee"

MAVLAB PTY LTD
29-33 Rowland Street Slacks Creek QLD 4127 Ph: 07 3808 1399

www.fidos.com

Treatment involves treating the animal and the environment. The most common treatments used for animals are Selamectin (Revolution) or Fipronil (Frontline) spot-ons- these should be used every two weeks rather than four weeks, for a couple of months. As these are common flea preventatives and treatments it is probably prudent to continue using this long-term every month. It is VERY important that you treat all animals in the household (and not just the cats!) Another alternative is using an oral treatment- both Milbemycin (Milbemax) and Ivermectin (Heartgard for Cats) can be used once to twice weekly. For the environment it is probably best to get professional pest exterminators in, and using any of the usual flea products should be effective.

Hope this is helpful and that you get this pesky infection under control!

Bird and Exotics Vet

**Dr Alex Rosenwax – BVSC MACVSc (Avian Health)
Bird & Exotics Veterinarian, Green Square.**

Alex graduated from the University of Sydney in 1991. He achieved Membership of the Avian Health Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in 1996. In November 1996 he opened the first and only Sydney all bird and exotic pet practice. The Clinic moved to 1 Hunter St, Waterloo in 2003 and sees approximately 80% birds, and 20% fish, reptiles and other exotic pets. Alex is the current president of the Australian Veterinary Association Avian Group.

Shop 3, Block D, 1 Hunter St, Waterloo, Sydney 2017
Ph: (02) 9319 6111 <http://www.birdvet.com.au>



Dear Dr Alex,

I recently inherited a lovely Sun Conure. Stanley is probably about eight years old, is tame and seems to have bonded quite quickly with me. My question is his diet. He's been fed mostly seed. In fact, seed is all he wants to eat and despite me chopping up fruit and vegies, he's just more interested in seed. I don't want to take away his seed and just replace the other foods as I'm worried he will starve. Is there anything I can do to make the vegetables and fruit more appealing? Is there some replacement strategy for introducing healthier foods and therefore replacing the seed?

Your conure is a fruit, vegetable and seed eater and so you are correct to be concerned that his present diet is not balanced and healthy. A balanced diet is very important for your bird and unfortunately seed is very low in calcium and is missing many important vitamins. I recommend that bird pellets or crumble be available at all times and it is a good idea to convert your bird to eating pellets in addition to seeds. Make sure the pellets are a high-quality brand (check with your avian veterinarian) and are suitable for conures. If your bird is on a non-pelleted (that is, a seed diet) then he should not eat only one type of seed and should have no more than 10-15 sunflower seeds per day.

Ideally, each day your bird should be supplied a balanced selection of fresh vegetables such as spinach, beans, parsley, broccoli, carrots and silverbeet.

Many fruits can be offered including bananas, passionfruit, apples, grapes, melon, kiwi fruit and occasionally citrus fruits.

Other foods you can serve include small amounts of pasta, rice, toast, eggs, mashed potato, chicken bones and other meats. Remember, do not give your bird chocolate, coffee or avocado – these are toxic to birds.

University Veterinary Centre – Sydney



We cater for all your pets' needs, from whisker to tail ...

The University Veterinary Centre is a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital. Looking after your pet is our highest priority. Both routine and specialist veterinary services are available.

- Vaccinations
- Microchipping
- Desexing
- Puppy pre-school
- Dentistry
- Specialist medicine
- Specialist surgery
- Dermatology
- Radiology and ultrasound
- Flea and worming treatments

10% discount for University of Sydney staff and students

We proudly participate in the Cat Protection Society kitten adoption scheme.



The University of Sydney

65 Parramatta Road Camperdown 2006
Ph: 9351 3437 Fax: 9351 7436
www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/sydneyclinic

Because animals matter

Some birds will switch over to new foods readily within a few days. Others may take 4-6 weeks before conversion is achieved, so it is important to persevere and try a variety of methods. When adding new foods, do not just mix the seed and pellets or new fruits together. Do not try forcing your bird to eat new foods by starving it with only the new food available during conversion.

To begin the process of introducing a new food, remove all food at 6pm and ensure the cage is clean of any scraps, including grit, so that just water is available overnight.

The next morning take the bird out of its cage and play with the new food yourself on the table or floor. Pretend to eat it, and move it around in front of the bird for 5-10 minutes. If the bird begins to pick the new food up and is seen to crush/shred and sometimes eat it, then conversion is complete. If the bird does not begin to eat the new food during this time, remove it and 1/2 hour later offer seed again. Try again the next day and vary the foods until you find ones your bird likes. Often birds that are not used to eating new foods and only eat seeds prefer to initially try carbohydrates such as pasta and rice. Once they are used to trying these new foods they will try many other new fruits and vegetables. Many birds will try a new food and eat it for a few days then not eat this food again. Some birds prefer different fruits and vegetables at different times of the year. So just keep experimenting with different combinations of various foods until you find ones that he enjoys eating.



THE PERFECT STORM - FOR FLEAS!

Moisture + Heat + Humidity = FLEAS

For fast, effective flea control use FIDO'S FLEA CONTROL PRODUCTS

For on Animal and Environmental Flea Control using Natural Pyrethrin as a Pet Friendly/Flea Deadly Insecticide

FIDO'S
www.fidos.com



MAVLAB PTY LTD 29-33 Rowland St Slacks Creek QLD 4127 Ph: 07 3808 1399