



FLEAS

When is Flea Season?

Most people think flea season is in the spring and (early) summer. The high moisture and higher temperatures of spring and summer provide fertile breeding ground for fleas, as well as many other insects. However, from a practical perspective, we at Soggy Paws™ don't consider these times flea season. Instead, we consider fall flea season. Why? Because most people know to use flea preventatives during the spring and summer. Most people stop using flea treatments during the fall, and while fewer fleas breed, more take hold.

How did this happen? I am not a dirty person

Did you know that fleas do NOT need a live carrier to travel? So...your dog doesn't play with other dogs, is out walking on his own, and comes home and gets fleas. Well, let's say that a dog named *Barney* is out walking. Barney has fleas. ☹️ Barney stops to pee on a tree. Well, little Mr. Flea can jump on the tree. Your sweet honey comes by thinking, "Damn Barney. Marking on my spot!" Well, as *Herb* is reclaiming his spot, Mr. Flea decides that 'yes, indeed, Herb provides a much better home than does Barney. Well, now Herb has fleas. And so do you. And your home. At the end of the day, it's always Barney's fault.

You are not dirty. You are not unclean. You are not a bad person. You are *Unlucky!*

NO Vacancy

The best way to prevent fleas is don't get them. That can be easier said than done.

- *Flea Collars DON'T WORK.*
- *Topical treatments are good for regular circumstances however, they are not a 100% guarantee*
- *Use a booster (one of the treatments below) when going to wooded areas*

The reality is the best that you can do is to try some of the solutions above to prevent fleas. But sometimes, even with the best prevention techniques, flea happens.

Eggs Over Easy?

The saying is that it's not the flea you see that is the problem. It's the eggs that you don't.

One flea can bite and annoy you. But one flea by itself can only be a small (pun intended) annoyance. However, one flea can lay enough eggs for an infestation. In order to truly cure yourself of a flea problem, you need to treat the flea, but more importantly, you need to treat the eggs!

- **Topical Treatments:** Over the counter topical treatments vary in the amounts of chemicals that they use. Soggy Paws sells the Bio-Spot™ product because it has fewer harsh chemicals than Frontline™



or other name brand products. If you are going to use a topical treatment, remember that you should not use a dog treatment on cats. Chrysanthemum oils are often used in dog treatments, but Chrysanthemum oil is toxic for some cats. When getting a topical treatment, make sure the package says "Safe for Cats."

- **Herb Oils:** Aromatherapy oils like Peppermint Oil, Eucalyptus Oil, and Spearmint Oil are good natural remedies and preventatives. It is important to not that herb oils are primarily flea repellants, meaning they shoo the fleas away. But they have limited effect at killing fleas!
- **Cedar Shampoos and Cedar Sprays:** Cedar provides a natural flea repellant (like *Herb Oils*), but do not kill the fleas. They are best used before going to a heavily wooded area, rather than after. Cedar is safe for dogs and cats but the smell can be too intense for some.
- **Citronella Shampoos and Sprays:** Citronella, the same stuff in the candles that keeps mosquitoes from your barbecues, is an ingredient in many dog shampoos and sprays. It is primarily a flea repellant, not a flea killer. Citronella is safe for dogs, but *citronella is not safe for all cats and kittens!* Finally, the smell may be too intense for many people.
- **Diatomaceous Earth:** Diatomaceous Earth. It is a powder made from the shells of a glass-structured, microscopic creature. The glass like structure will cut the body of existing fleas and eggs. You can sprinkle it onto your carpet as you would baking soda and then vacuum. You can rub it through your bed and the dog's bed. You can put it on your sheets and wash the sheets. Or not wash them. It's not toxic. NOT ONLY is it not toxic, you can feed it to your dogs. It will make their blood TOXIC TO FLEAS. That's right. Just a quarter teaspoon with a meal and then if a flea bites your babies, it will kill that flea, and any eggs that that flea is spawning. FYI – This ingredient is often used in toothpaste as a sparkling agent, so again, not toxic.
- **Area Sprays:** Not to be confused with foggers, area sprays allow you to target specific areas of the house with different degrees of saturation. Soggy Paws sells the Natural Chemistry spray because it does not contain Pyrethrins. Originally derived from Chrysanthemum plants, pyrethrins are often now synthetically produced and can, in rare cases, cause health problems for some dogs and many cats. The Natural Chemistry DeFlea Spray contains 2 naturally occurring ingredients that first soften the exoskeleton of both live fleas and larvae, and then attack the pests' internal organs.
- **Room Foggers:** Room foggers all contain assorted synthetic Pyrethrins. Foggers have their purpose, primarily to recover from an actual flea infestation. Room foggers will get into the nooks and crannies of your house to kill residual fleas and also eggs. You will want to clear the house for 6-8 hours after releasing the fogger.