



UNDERSTANDING FLEAS

ITCHING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FLEAS? READ ON!

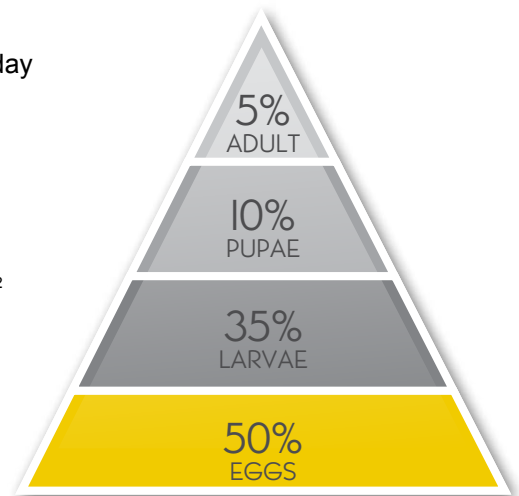
FLEAS are wingless, bloodsucking parasites that may cause excessive itching/scratching/grooming, hair loss, flea allergy dermatitis, anemia and tapeworm infection in your cat. Fleas can be brought into your home by other animals and once inside they can multiply quickly. It's no wonder that pet owners have a difficult time eradicating fleas from their homes once they take up residence.



FLEA FACTS:

- Once an adult female flea lands on a pet, she can lay 40-50 eggs a day and more than 2,000 eggs in a lifetime.¹
- The complete life cycle of the flea can be completed in as little as 13 days or prolonged to almost 6 months.²
- Adult fleas cannot survive or lay eggs without a blood meal, but fleas can survive in the pupal cocoon for up to 6 months without feeding.^{1,2}
- Only 5 percent of a home's flea population is the adults that you can see.

A flea infestation is made up of adult fleas, pupae, larvae and eggs. Emergence of adult fleas from pupal cocoons can be a source of persistent infestation of your home, your cat and other pets. Simple monthly flea control targeting multiple flea stages can prevent flea infestation and problems caused by fleas. For more information on fleas and prevention, talk with your veterinarian.



STRUCTURE OF FLEA POPULATION

¹ Dryden MW. Host association, on-host longevity and egg production of *Ctenocephalides felis felis*. *Veterinary Parasitology* 1989(34)117-122.

² Dryden MW, Rust MK. The Cat Flea: Biology, Ecology and Control. *Veterinary Parasitology* 1994(52)1-19.