In the northern United States, fleas are prevalent during the warm summer months, though the pesky parasites cause trouble year-round for pet owners in the south.

Aside from itchy, irritating bites, fleas can cause the skin disease flea allergy dermatitis in both cats and dogs, as well as miliary dermatitis in cats. Fleas can also transmit double-pore tapeworm, a common tapeworm found in dogs and cats, as well as a number of other diseases.

There are four stages in a flea’s life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult.

It is only during the adult stage that the flea actually lives on an animal; during the other three stages, the flea lives in the surrounding environment.

Fleas are most commonly found on dogs around the base of the tail and on the belly. If you suspect your dog has fleas but cannot see them, check for “flea dirt”:

Brush your pet while it lies on a piece of white paper to collect any dirt or debris. Next, add a few drops of water to the dirt on the paper. If dried blood is present, the water will take on a reddish color. Voila! Flea dirt.

What is the number one sign fleas have invaded your home and latched onto your pet?

**Scratching!**

For every single adult flea you find on your pet, 100 immature fleas are developing in your home!

95% of the flea population in your home is comprised of immature fleas.

**Flea Facts**

**A Flea’s Life Stages**

- Egg
- Larva
- Pupa
- Adult

**Flea Facts**

- Egg, larva, pupa, and adult
- Adult stage: flea lives on animal
- Other stages: flea lives in environment

**Finding Fleas**

- Brush pet on white paper
- Add water
- Reddish color indicates flea dirt

**Combat Infestation**

- Vacuum several times each week
- Wash pet’s bedding once a week
- Use insect spray or fogger

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