



Flea Prevention

A flea infestation on your pet and in your home is not a very pleasant experience.

- The majority of flea infestations in all domestic pets are caused by the cat flea.
- It is advisable when getting a new dog/puppy to ask the previous owner or breeder which products have been used and when they were last applied.
- There are many products available in a range of applications – tablets, spot on or injectable. Our staff are happy to discuss individual cases and advise to suit your needs.

Non-prescription flea/worming products are not recommended as their efficiency is not as good as Prescription Only Medicines. Therefore, it is best to purchase your flea/worming treatments from your vet.

Getting rid of fleas on your dog alone does not tackle the overall flea problem. During the flea cycle only about 5% of fleas are actually living on your dog. The other 95% of fleas are living in your house!

The Four Stages of the Flea Life Cycle

- **Eggs (1-10 days):** Female fleas lay up to 50 eggs per day, which are not sticky and quickly fall off the pet into carpets, bedding, and furniture.
- **Larvae (5-15 days):** Larvae hatch from eggs and avoid light, feeding on organic debris and "flea dirt" (faeces from adult fleas) in their environment.
- **Pupa (Days to Months):** Larvae spin a cocoon, entering the pupa stage. This stage is highly resilient to insecticides and can remain dormant for several months until they detect a suitable host via vibrations or warmth.
- **Adult (Approx. 100 days):** Once emerged, the adult flea must feed on a blood meal immediately. They mate shortly after feeding, and females begin laying eggs within your house.

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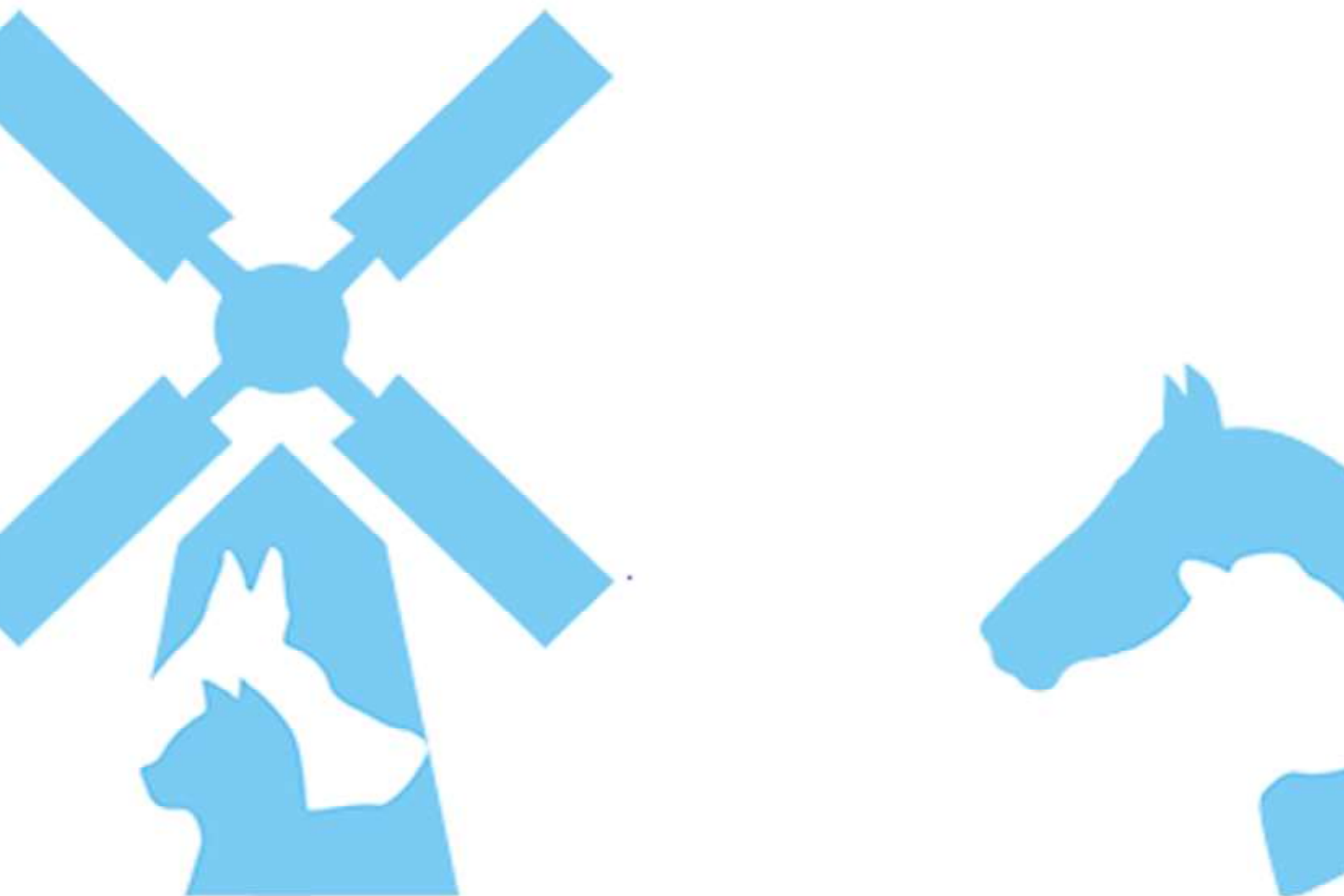


WHITE MILL VETERINARY CENTRE



To eliminate fleas, dogs and the house (and cats if you have them living in the home), need treating at the same time. An effective product from the vet should be used on animals and a household spray in the home. Ensure you spray edges of rooms and floorboards as these are places eggs can fall into. A warm, humid environment, along with regular vacuuming (vibrations), encourage the pupa to develop, thus allowing the products to work. As the eggs can lie dormant, it may take 2-3 months of treating before the fleas are gone for good.

Veterinary flea products are prescription only; therefore, your pet will need to have seen a vet within 12 months to be prescribed. Household sprays are available over the counter.



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