

PROTECTING YOUR PETS AND YOU



RISKS

Many flea and tick control products have pesticides in them. They may cause cancer or other health problems. As a result, they can be a threat to both pets and humans.

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION AND ALTERNATIVES

It is best not to use chemical flea and tick dips, sprays, powders, foggers and bombs.

Less toxic methods you could use to control fleas and ticks on pets:

- ✓ Wash pet bedding often
- ✓ Vacuum often to keep down the fleas and flea eggs in your home. Change vacuum cleaner bags frequently
- ✓ Regularly comb pets with flea combs. Dip the comb into soapy water every time you sweep through your pet's fur
- ✓ Use herbal flea and tick collars or other herbal products. These are sold in health food and some pet stores

- ✓ Check pets every day if they play in woody, grassy or brushy areas known to have ticks. Check your pets if they play with other animals who are often in the woods or brush
- ✓ Look for lumps everywhere on your pet's body. Key places for ticks are around the head, neck, behind the ears and between their toes.

Wash your pet with non-chemical soaps that dissolve flea eggs. Just using soap and water can kill fleas if the soap is left on for about 5 to 8 minutes.

IF YOUR PET DOES HAVE TICKS:

Don't break the ticks off! As with people, clean the area with soap and water. Apply an antiseptic like hydrogen peroxide then remove the tick with a tweezer. The tick can be killed by placing it in soapy water or alcohol. Pull the tick straight out. Don't twist or crush it because part of the tick can remain inside and get infected.

Companies such as Nature's Pet and Doctor Dog claim to offer effective non-chemical shampoos and treatments (please note: we do not endorse any products on the market). For more information, go online to:

- www.thegreenguide.com
- www.beyondpesticides.org.