

Cat Flea

Scientific Name: Ctenocephalides felis



Identification Tips:

Color	Brownish-black to black, but reddish-black when filled with blood
Legs	6
Size	Adult fleas are 1/8" long
Identifying Characteristics	Strong hind legs which they use to jump from host to host; bodies are hardened and compressed from side to side

Characteristics of this insect:

- Infestations get started in summertime, after pests come into contact with infested pets or while outside in infested areas
- Have piercing-sucking mouthparts and they readily jump when trying to attach to a host (yes, people can be the host). Flea bites are extremely irritating to pets
- Flea undergoes complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). Adult male and females need a blood meal before mating. Female which lays approximately 4-8 eggs after each blood meal, may lay up to 500 eggs during her lifetime. These eggs are deposited between the hairs of the animal and hence, are easily shaken off onto nearby surroundings
- Can remain in pupa stage for an extremely long period of time due to lack of host or vibratory conditions. Adults emerge from pupa state when stimulated by vibration and an increase in carbon dioxide, which indicates a host is present



Why are they in my structure?

Your pet may have introduced them into your structure. However, being that they are good jumpers, you may have transported them inside on your pants, shoes, gym bag, etc. Absent of these conditions, you may have wildlife sharing your home in a chimney flue or attic space that is perpetuating the flea problem.

Is this insect harmful to me?

Fleas inflict painful bites to the host, albeit the animal or human. They are also known to transmit diseases such as plague and murine typhus.

Can I treat the problem myself?

Control of a flea infestation is difficult for the homeowner to achieve due to the complexity of this insect, various circumstances that may be causing the problem, and the numerous control mechanisms that must be employed to rid the home of this infestation. Also, homeowners often utilize products that are ineffective or apply them not in accordance with labeling and state laws. One ineffective means that homeowners try is the total release aerosol which provides poor flea control (does nothing to eliminate flea eggs). Please remember that products may be harmful to you and your family if they are misused or misapplied and should be handled by a professional.

What can Apex do for me?

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the homeowner as to where the fleas have been seen, what type of animals are involved, conditions within the home that may be causing the problems when no animals are involved, and spend time educating the customer as to what they can do to help us achieve control. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

One-Time Treatment: Apex will request that the homeowner have the animal professionally treated by a veterinarian. We will also request that certain items are removed from flooring areas, bedding and blankets are hot-washed, food items are put away, aquariums are covered with aluminum foil or shrink wrap and the aerators shut off, and that the home and furniture is thoroughly vacuumed (and bag is disposed of outside of home) prior to our visit. An Apex service representative will apply the appropriate products to include an insect growth regulator (birth control for the flea) which the safety of your children and pets in mind. A 90-day guarantee is provided with free service calls if needed.

Pest Prevention Plan: Quarterly inspections and treatments are performed to keep your home pest free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the **recommended treatment of Apex.**

Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?

Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.



What should I do now?

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> 1-800-MUG-A-BUG

Pest Control