# Herbal Pet Care

Herbs have supplemented traditional healthcare since the dawn of time. For even the most intense of ailments, a root or leaf can be the “silver bullet” to good health. Now over 90% of North American doctors provide herbs as part of their patient’s health.

For most people, pets are like members of the family. Rather than being second or first cousins, pets are more like daughters and sons. This is especially true for couples who have no children.

Until recently, herbs were rarely used in veterinary care. However, herbal remedies can provide safe alternatives to dangerous drugs and expensive prescriptions. Most pet problems can be solved using available household items.

For example, garlic can prevent parasites and infections. By mixing garlic cloves with olive oil and peppermint, you can create a mouthwash for Fido or Kitty. Eucalyptus, rosemary, and sage are natural diuretic agents for removing harmful toxins. By lining your pet’s bed with marjoram and bay leaves, you will ensure a sound sleep for yourself as well. Cedar and oak will prevent excessive shedding if used with an oatmeal-based shampoo.

## Preventing Fleas and Ticks

To prevent fleas and ticks, you can create your own pet dip using the following ingredients:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quantity | Ingredient |
| 2 cups | Ground green tea leaves |
| 1 | Citronella candle |
| 4 tablespoons | Sage |
| ½ pound | Garlic cloves |

Just add the candle to a hot pan and mix it with the green tea leaves. Once the mixture is cooled, fold in the sage and cloves. Place the pet in lukewarm water and gently brush the dip in using a steel brush. Keep the dip in the fur for at least 15-20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and dry the pet with a used rag. Remove all excess dip from the nose and ears.

You can also add wormwood and black walnut acorns for worm prevention. Hot tea can be added to dry food to provide anti-oxidants for healthy skin.