

## Pet-proof your garden

Thanks to their curious nature, dogs can sniff, lick and chew their way into a case of poisoning or injury in the blink of an eye. And cats aren't immune to mischief! Make sure your garden is free of these dangers to keep your pet safe and happy.

### Poisonous plants:

Plant poisoning is fairly common for pets. It helps to be aware which plants in your garden and neighbourhood can be harmful. Remove any toxic plants, or put them out of reach of pets. Plants to watch out for include black nightshade, karaka, deathcap mushroom, NZ tree nettle (ongaonga), daffidols, foxglove, ivy, rhubarb, aloe vera, onions and garlic, gypsophila, bird of paradise, tomato plant (green fruit, stem and leaves), wandering jew, barley grass seeds, lilies.

### Common garden dangers:



#### Slug, snail and rat bait

Baits can be tasty for pets but very toxic if eaten.

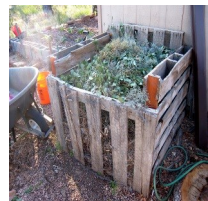
**Tip:** Keep snail bait out of reach and in a pet proof container. Look for pet friendly baits.



#### Garden tools

Many gardening tools, like rakes and secateurs, are sharp and can easily cause puncture wounds, then the cuts can become infected and even lead to tetanus.

**Tip:** Make sure garden tools are locked away safely, or at least not hiding in tall grass.



#### Compost

Depending on what you're tossing in the compost bin, it could be hazardous for your pet.

**Tip:** Keep your compost free of human foods that are toxic to pets.



#### Fertiliser

Blood and bone fertilisers are very tasty to dogs, but they can cause vomiting and serious illness.

## What to do if you suspect poisoning:

1. Make a note of the signs the dog is showing
2. Try and identify the poison if you can. Check for open or chewed containers, spilled products, known poisonous plants
3. Call your veterinarian for advice or to be seen

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products  
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# CHB VETS LTD

Veterinary newsletter

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## Stay Dog Safe—information for families

Using common sense and the following safety tips will help your children to stay dog safe. Talk about the following safety messages with your children to support what they are learning at school.

### 🐾 Check it's sweet – before you meet!

**Ask permission from the owner before going up to a dog.** Lots of dogs are friendly, but some aren't. Owners can tell you if it is safe to go up to their dog. But still be careful.

### 🐾 To understand – they sniff your hand!

**When meeting a dog, let it sniff the back of your hand.** Dogs have a sense of smell that is fifty times stronger than ours. Dogs use their sense of smell to get to know strangers. Using the back of your hand keeps your fingers out of the way.

### 🐾 Chin or chest – that's the best!

**After permission is given, stroke only the chin, chest or shoulders and remember to be gentle.** Dogs don't really like being patted on their heads by strangers. They might think you are trying to dominate them.

### 🐾 To meet a pup – ask a grown-up!

**Ask an adult before cuddling a puppy.** Mother dogs are naturally protective. But even if a puppy's mother isn't there, puppies are still dogs and they can bite, jump and scratch like older ones – so be careful.

### 🐾 If a dog has a snack – keep well back!

**Stay away from a dog that is eating or has a bone.** When they are eating, dogs might think you want to take some of their food if you try to pat them. They will try to protect it.

### 🐾 Keep your face – out of their space!

**Never kiss or put your face down close to a dog's face.** It's just common sense for children to keep their faces away from a dog's teeth.

### 🐾 Don't run and shout – it freaks us out!

**Do not run around or shout near a dog.** Dogs react to the way we behave. If you shout or run a dog might chase or attack you.

### 🐾 A dog's not a toy – don't tease or annoy!

**Never tease or annoy a dog.** Dogs can tell us to stop only by growling or biting.

### 🐾 Quiet and slow – is the way to go!

**If you are scared of a dog, move quietly and slowly away from it.** Don't run. It is better to walk away quietly and slowly. Don't stare at the dog as you move away. If you stare, a dog might think you want to fight.

*It is not possible to cover everything in nine safety tips. To learn more about dog safety, go to:*

**[www.dogsafety.govt.nz](http://www.dogsafety.govt.nz)**

We took part in the CHB Council's Doggy Day Out recently. Lots of fun to be had. Our 20kg bag of dog food competition was won by Bev Thomson.





# THE FLEA CHALLENGE

Pets can pick up fleas from a walk, playing in the dog park, at the beach or even in the backyard. By the time you see adult fleas on your pets it's most likely there are already flea eggs, larvae and pupae established in your home and garden. Treat monthly with FRONTLINE® PLUS year-round to break the flea life cycle and provide your dog or cat with optimum flea control.

## THE FLEA LIFE CYCLE

The flea life cycle has four developmental stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The time it takes to complete the cycle can be as short as 12 days to as long as 6 months.<sup>1</sup>

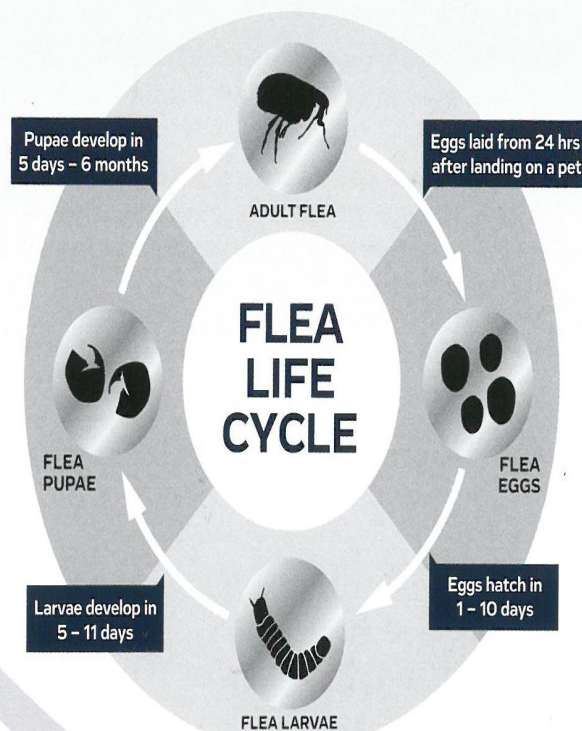
**Flea Eggs:** A flea can lay up to 50 tiny white eggs per day on your pet.<sup>2</sup> These flea eggs fall off the pet's coat into the environment.

**Flea Larvae:** Flea eggs hatch into larvae. Flea larvae are mobile; moving away from light, towards moisture and the ground.

**Flea Pupae:** Flea larvae spin a cocoon to become pupae. Pupae can remain dormant for up to six months, depending on environmental conditions.<sup>2</sup>

**Adult Fleas:** Young adult fleas are stimulated to emerge from the cocoon by temperature, movement, shadows and exhaled carbon dioxide. Within a second, your passing pet may acquire newly emerged fleas from the environment (e.g. under the house, within the pet's bedding or from the garden).

The adult fleas then mate on the pet within 8-24 hours. The production of flea eggs begins within 24-48 hours of feeding.<sup>2</sup>



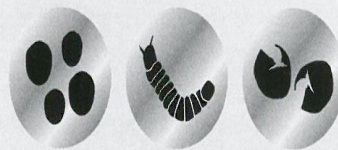
# 5%

of a flea problem is on your pet as adult fleas



# 95%

of a flea problem comes in the form of eggs, larvae and pupae in your pet's environment



## Did you know?

The most common way pets pick up fleas is from the environment. Fleas rarely jump from pet to pet.<sup>3</sup>

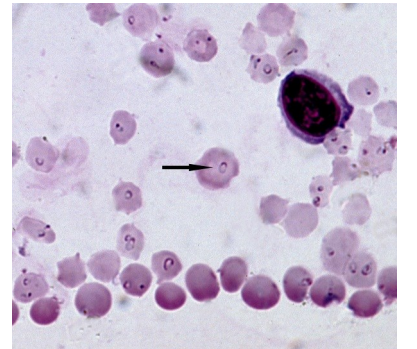
## General recommendations

- Use a flea control product all year round.
- Wash pet bedding and blankets regularly – in water above 60 °C for at least 10 minutes. If necessary and practical, discard flea infested items.
- Vacuum regularly. This will assist with removal of eggs and stimulate fleas to emerge.
- Clean between floorboards and in cracks between tiles and pavers.
- Place any household items that come into contact with pets and cannot be washed (e.g. rugs, cushions, door mats) in direct sunlight for as long as possible.
- Prevent pet's access to areas of potential flea contamination (e.g. under the house).
- Where possible, prevent untreated animals from entering your home environment.

## Theileria

**Theileriosis is a tick-borne disease in cattle caused by an intracellular blood parasite that in NZ is carried by the cattle tick *Haemaphysalis longicornis*.**

Signs of Theileriosis are those associated with anaemia and include: pale membranes, depression, lethargy, lack of appetite, exercise intolerance (lagging behind the mob) and in some instances cattle may collapse and die if stressed or forced to move or run. Pregnant cows may abort and still births are common.



## Treatment options for Theileria

Unfortunately our treatment options are currently limited in NZ and are mainly restricted to symptomatic and supportive care.

- Minimise stress, handling and transport of affected animals.
- Some antibiotics have some animals show improvement in some cases, whether it affects the parasite itself, or helps with concurrent issues. If no improvement is seen in 2-3 days it is recommended that treatment is stopped as the stress of injections and movement may worsen the anaemia/clinical signs.
- Blood transfusions – are an option for valuable, anaemic animals.
- Buparavaquone – this is the preferred international treatment of choice, however is very limited in availability.

## Control and prevention options

In areas where Theileria is commonly found (endemic areas) most adult cattle are found to be immune. In Northland, Theileriosis has been noted frequently, and stock in areas like this should be closely inspected.

Calves should be examined closely when they are 6-12 weeks old as this is the time when temperatures are increasing and ticks will be starting to attach to stock.

Introduced cattle should be examined closely when they arrive on farm, and are starting to settle in over the next few weeks – as this is commonly when stressors are maximal and clinical disease may present.

When using insecticides, always consult with your veterinarian and remember to observe the prescribed withholding periods before marketing products of treated animals. Cattle may require treatment every two to three weeks for a few months during summer and autumn, but it must be noted that over-use of tick products can cause resistance within the tick population. Therefore it is important to remember that tick treatments should not be the only method of tick control – each stage of the life cycle of the tick is only on the body for a short period of time. Rotational grazing practices may also help control ticks; the use of sheep or deer may act as 'vacuum cleaners' to remove ticks from pasture before the introduction of cattle.