



### FLEAS & WORMS

If fleas exist in the environment they will find a way onto your cat. They can transmit tapeworms to cats and are the number one cause of skin disease (flea allergy dermatitis).

Your cat can catch roundworms if it eats raw meat or dead animals such as mice and birds, or heartworm if it is bitten by a mosquito which has previously bitten an infected dog.

To prevent your cat getting fleas and worms you should treat them with something that will prevent them occurring (a preventative). In addition if your cat goes outdoors you should vacuum regularly, machine wash cat blankets weekly & dry them in the sun. This is because 95% of fleas live as eggs, larvae or pupae in carpets, furniture, bedding and the yard.

### How to tell if your cat has fleas

If your pet is scratching a lot, part its fur and if there are specks that look like black pepper which turn red when dampened, this is flea dirt and your pet has fleas.

### Can fleas and worms affect humans?

A person has to eat an infected flea to be affected so it is very rare for a person to catch worms from a flea. Cat fleas can bite humans leaving round, red spots, however these are harmless and only result in minor itchiness and discomfort.

### How to prevent fleas and worms

*\*Preventative treatments can be much cheaper if you buy them online*

*\* Make sure you check the dosage for age/weight as some cannot be used on young kittens*

**You can use tablets to prevent fleas and worms but we recommend 'Spot on' treatments.** They are easy to apply onto the back of your cat's neck once a month and are very effective.. Some products treat worms or heartworms as well as fleas and examples include Advocate, Advantage, Activyl, Advantix, and Revolution. At SAFE we use Advocate

**KITTENS - Advocate 'spot-on'** once a month over 9 weeks of age to prevent both fleas and worms

**ADULT CATS - Advocate 'spot-on'** once a month to prevent both fleas and worms

We do not recommend flea shampoos, rinses or sprays. They can be very difficult to use and vary in effectiveness.

### TICKS

#### Consult with your vet for the best ways to prevent ticks

Ticks are prevalent on the Northern Beaches and in NSW paralysis ticks are common. Tick prevention is recommended especially during the Summer months. If your cat goes outside you need to check daily for ticks as early detection is key. Approximately 85-90% of paralysis ticks can be found around the head, neck, armpits, ears and shoulders, but they can occur anywhere. Part your cat's fur and examine it's skin thoroughly – don't forget to check in their ears, around their mouth, under their tail and collar, between their paw pads and any other areas where a tick could hide. Remember, ticks are usually 'flat' when they first attach to a cat. Once they have engorged themselves by feeding, their appearance changes to a round shape. If you find a tick, take your cat to the vet immediately.

### VACCINATIONS

*\*please note that every boarding facility will need proof of up-to-date vaccinations*

*\*please consult your vet and do your own research on the timing of vaccinations*

All cats must be vaccinated against the Big Three Diseases: Feline Infectious Enteritis, Feline Calcivirus & Feline Rhinotracheitis. Together they are commonly known as the flu & enteritis vaccinations or F3.

**Kittens** have either two or three vaccinations depending on their age when they are first vaccinated. They are normally given 4 weeks apart. After that they require a vaccination booster once every year\*

**Adult cats** require an annual vaccination booster for life\*