

MILLWOOD



ANIMAL CLINIC

1-509-924-5800



The Scoop

Keeping the bugs at bay

If you've ever dealt with a flea infestation, you know. Fleas don't just affect your pets - they can wreak havoc on your whole household! The best way to keep your pet, your home, and your family pest-free is to block them before they get through your door. Protecting your pet and home from fleas and ticks means protecting them from the diseases these pests carry, such as tapeworm and Lyme disease. Is your pet itchy? Some pets (and people) can develop skin allergies to flea or tick bites. Once fleas have infested your home, you must kill not only live adults, but also their eggs and larvae. If your pet spends much of its time outdoors or if you live in a wooded area, you may need to be especially mindful of ticks, too. When it comes to fleas and ticks, prevention is almost always easier than treating it. Ask us about the modern advancements in parasite prevention that are simple to administer, nontoxic, and best of all, more effective than older over-the-counter remedies.

Fleas 101

Warmer weather brings fleas out of hiding, and in many parts of the country fleas are a threat year-round. These tiny wingless insects jump onto your pets, feast on their blood, and lay eggs, which can be carried into your home or yard. One flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day. Under ideal conditions, 25 fertile females can multiply to nearly half a million offspring in a month. Think your pet's been spared? Better double check. Fleas are small and tough to spot. Pull back your pet's fur with a comb and examine the skin for tiny black dots. These dots are flea feces. It's also a good idea to check your carpets or your pet's bedding-these are areas in which fleas love to hide. If you find traces of flea infestation, be sure to call us for advice on ways to manage the problem.

Quick Tick Tips

A walk through the park or a hike in the woods can bring unwanted guests. Be sure to do a tick check on your pet when you come back indoors. Early tick removal is a great way to prevent transmission of disease. If you find a tick feeding on your dog or cat, don't panic. To remove the tick, grasp firmly with tweezers as close as you can to your pet's skin, but be careful not to squeeze too hard. This can push saliva and the "guts" of the tick into your pet. Pull up on the tick gently, in one continuous twisting motion, making sure to get the whole tick, head and all. For the next few days, keep an eye on the area where the tick was, and make sure to bring your pet in at the first sign of any infection or change in your pet's behavior.

