

# VETS ON ALABAMA

## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS



Issue: 001 – Winter 2013

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### FLEAS – MYTHS V FACTS

Fleas are annoying for you and a constant threat to your pet. However in reality most people know very little about the common flea, other than noticing their pet is scratching more or we physically end up with bites which cause us to do something about the problem.

Fleas rarely jump from one pet to another, as is often thought. Instead they pick them up from an infested environment.

Here are some common Myths about fleas –

1. Indoor Pets don't get fleas – Not true. Fleas can hitch a ride with you or something you bring into your home and then onto your pet.
2. Spraying the environment for fleas can control them – Not true. You need to treat your pet directly to gain control. Fleas can still feed on your pet and lay eggs if only the environment is sprayed.
3. If no carpet in the house then no fleas – Not true. Fleas will live in your furniture and cracks in your house, however they will have better survival in carpet. They are resilient creatures and can live in most places.
4. If using a flea product there should not be any fleas on my pet – Not true. Sorry, but fleas need to jump on in order to be exposed to the preventative treatment. The product applied will then kill the flea.
5. Switching flea products monthly is effective against resistance due to exposing fleas to different chemicals – Not true. In reality we have not seen resistance issues to our current flea products. Often a perceived resistance issue may happen just because there are too many fleas in the environment.



## Flea Facts

1. The female flea will start feeding within just a few minutes of being on your pet.
2. Female fleas can lay 40 to 50 eggs per day.
3. Flea eggs or larvae can take 5 – 12 days to turn into pupae. Pupae then turn into adult fleas anywhere between 14 and 180 days thereafter.
4. Temperature changes and humidity do effect the flea population. Optimal flea production occurs when the humidity is between 70% and 80%.
5. Tapeworms can also be transmitted by ingesting fleas



**Say your pet is carrying 100 female fleas, which will be enough to make your pet scratch but not an infestation. In one day those fleas produce 5000 eggs. After 20 days of producing that number increases to 100,000 eggs. Then in another 20 days those 100,000 eggs can become adult fleas, producing even more eggs of their own.**

## Nutrition – Tips on Feeding Your Puppy

- Feed complete and balanced formula and don't add any supplements unless prescribed by your vet. Supplements can adversely affect a diet that's 100% complete and balanced and may even do more harm than good.
- Use the feeding instructions on the pet food bag as a guide to work out the amount to feed your puppy each day. Divide the daily amount into the number of meals (usually 3) you plan to feed your puppy.
- Don't forget fresh water. Ensure your puppies drinking water is clean and fresh at all times.
- If your puppy is changing food for any reason, it is a good idea to make the transition a gradual one. This ensures that there is no intestinal upset during the adaption phase. Start feeding 75% old food and 25% new food on day one, increasing to 50:50 on day two and 75:25 on day three then 100% by day four.
- For very young puppies, it may help to soak dry food in a little warm water for 5 minutes before serving. Serve the food at room temperature. Any moistened food remaining uneaten should be discarded within an hour.
- After four months of age, transition your puppy to a twice daily feeding schedule.

**Did you know – Vets On Alabama offer a free puppy checkup.**

A vet nurse will have a look over your puppy and then give you a run down on what to expect as a new owner of a puppy.

**Call the clinic today to book in your free check.**



Photo: [www.fanpop.com](http://www.fanpop.com)

## Annual Checkups

Katatin Banyby

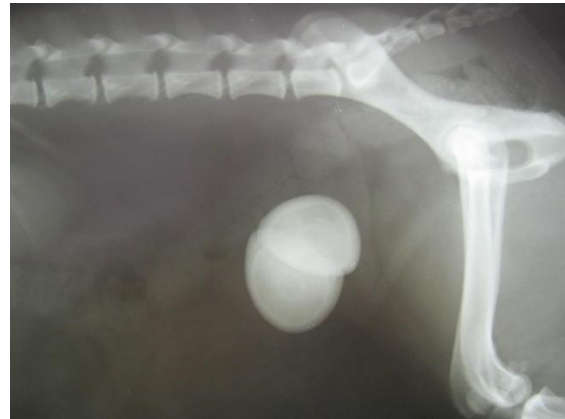
Annual check-ups are the key to your pets' wellbeing and longevity. Often during this exam the veterinarian can pick up early warning signs of serious problems that can affect the animals' future. Some of them can be corrected or at least if detected early slowed in progress.

We see all sorts during this exam – young animals in peak condition to geriatrics with multiple issues. During these nose-to-tail exams sometimes we find something minor, like flea dirt in their coat or a chubby waistline.

Sometimes more serious problems are detected with owners unaware of their existence.

To highlight the importance of these check up I would like to present you an interesting case of a little bichon who came in for her annual check-up and vaccination in November 2012. It all started as a routine check and on palpation of the abdomen something hard in the bladder was discovered. The little dog at home had a flap on the door so she was going in and out as she pleased so it wasn't obvious for the owners that she was urinating far to often.

Ultrasound examination proved the existence of large bladder stones or as we call them on medical terms "uroliths" filling half of the dog's bladder. After surgical removal the dogs urination returned to normal and should have felt a lot better. She also went on a special diet after surgery to help prevent recurrence.



An Xray that illustrates the size of the bladder stones

During these annual check-up visits your veterinarian will ask you if you have any concerns or questions. It is also a very good time to discuss any health issues, diet, parasite control and general care with your veterinarian.

### FREE DENTAL CHECKS

Vets on Alabama offer a free dental check for your dog or cat. This check up is done by one of our highly skilled veterinary nurses

- Thorough mouth exam
- Detailed advice on dental home care
- Rundown of dental products available
- Estimates + info on dental surgeries given (if necessary)

**Call The Clinic To Book Your Cat or Dog In For Their Free Dental Check**  
**Ph: (03) 57856965**

## PUPPY PRESCHOOL

Vets on Alabama offer a Puppy Preschool course that goes for five weeks, one night per week.

### WHY PUPPY PRESCHOOL

- Allows Socialisation in a safe and controlled environment
- Teach owners methods to help train and teach their puppy.
- Educate on responsible dog ownership, including healthcare and nutrition.
- Allows puppies to accept handling by other humans.
- Teaches owners about normal and abnormal behaviour and to develop realistic expectations of the puppy.

**When:** 6pm – Monday or Wednesday nights. (You will be told which night when you book in)

**Duration:** 45mins.

**Cost:** \$65.00

**Class size:** Limited – please phone to put your name on the list.

**For More Information:** Call Karyn or Ketta at the Clinic – (03) 578 6965.



\* While Stocks Last, Limited Time & Excludes 20kg bags

Have A Look At Our Website

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