



Search [Go](#)

[Home](#) | [Bugs in Your Rugs](#) | There's more to fleas than meets the eye.

Sentinel Rebate Offer



[For a valuable rebate offer, click here](#)

About Us

The Dirt On Worms

Bugs in Your Rugs

[Fleas in Your Home](#)
[Stop the Cycle](#)
[Treating Infestations vs. Preventing Them](#)
[Talk with Your Veterinarian](#)

Pet Health & Training

Current Pet Owners

Selecting a Dog

Just for Kids

In The News

Important Links

There's more to fleas than meets the eye.

There's more to fleas than meets the eye.

They bite. They itch. They're irritating and downright creepy. They can transmit serious [internal parasites](#) and even cause anemia and death in vulnerable animals. This much most pet owners know about fleas. But there's more.

Did you know that adult fleas make up just 5% of the flea population in flea infested homes? The rest are millions of maggot-like [flea larvae, pupae, and eggs](#) that nestle down in your carpet, furniture, bedding, and other dark places where they could easily reinfest your pets or come nose-to-nose with your children. That's why it's important to learn all you can about the flea life cycle and talk to your veterinarian—so you can beat the fleas you see and the ones you don't.

Freaky Flea Facts

- Fleas can eat 15 times their own weight in blood each day.
- A jumping flea can accelerate 50 times faster than a space shuttle.
- What's a flea larva's favorite food? Flea feces!
- A female flea can lay her weight in eggs daily - and up to 2,000 in a lifetime.
- Fleas have claimed more human lives than all the wars ever fought. Transmitted by fleas, the plague killed 200 million people around the world.

Sponsored by: (milbemycin oxime - Lufenuron)

Your Family's Insurance Company-for Life.



the GROW-UP® Plan



from Gerber Life

...READ MORE [→](#)

[Printer friendly version](#)

[GrowingUpWithPets.com Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Help](#)
[Legal Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Product Info](#) | [Bibliography](#)

©2005 Novartis Animal Health US, Inc.
 SENTINEL and Flavor Tabs are registered trademarks of Novartis AG



Search

Go

[Home](#) | [Bugs in Your Rugs](#) | [Fleas in Your Home](#)

Sentinel Rebate Offer

[For a valuable rebate offer, click here](#)
Is Your Dog Slowing Down?
Petwellness.com

About Us

The Dirt On Worms

Bugs in Your Rugs

[Fleas in Your Home](#)
[Stop the Cycle](#)
[Treating Infestations vs. Preventing Them](#)
[Talk with Your Veterinarian](#)

Pet Health & Training

Current Pet Owners

Selecting a Dog

Just for Kids

In The News

Important Links

Sponsored by:

**Your Family's
 Insurance
 Company-for Life.**



*Give your child
 an advantage
 for life.™*


[READ MORE](#)

Fleas in Your Home

Fleas in Your Home



Fleas in and around your home will feed on the blood of virtually any warm-blooded animal they encounter, including you and your pets. They can cause extreme discomfort and spread serious parasitic infections, like [tapeworm](#). Female fleas can lay up to fifty eggs each day. The eggs fall off your pet and develop into worm-like larvae, which hide in carpeting, furniture, bedding, and other dark places. The larvae mature as they feed on fecal matter dropped by adult fleas, and the cycle continues. Adult fleas (typically the only fleas you can see, either on your pet or in your household) represent just 5% of any given flea population.

Did you know?

- No product, even topicals, will kill fleas before they bite your pet.
- Flea larvae mature inside a cocoon, and while vacuuming effectively removes flea eggs and larvae, it actually stimulates matured fleas to emerge from cocoons.
- Unlike mosquitoes, who eat once and then allow themselves to digest their meal, a flea will repeatedly bite its host long after its hunger is satisfied.

[↑ Back to the top](#)
[Printer friendly version](#)

[GrowingUpWithPets.com Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Help](#)
[Legal Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Product Info](#) | [Bibliography](#)

©2005 Novartis Animal Health US, Inc.
 SENTINEL and Flavor Tabs are registered trademarks of Novartis AG



Search [Go](#)

[Home](#) | [Bugs in Your Rugs](#) | [Stop the Cycle](#)

Sentinel Rebate Offer



[For a valuable rebate offer, click here](#)

Is Your Dog Slowing Down?



Petwellness.com



About Us

The Dirt On Worms

Bugs in Your Rugs

- [Fleas in Your Home](#)
- [Stop the Cycle](#)
- [Treating Infestations vs. Preventing Them](#)
- [Talk with Your Veterinarian](#)

Pet Health & Training

Current Pet Owners

Selecting a Dog

Just for Kids

In The News

Important Links



Your Family's Insurance Company-for Life.



the GROW-UP[®] Plan



from **Gerber Life**

[READ MORE](#)

Stop the Cycle

Stop the Cycle

So, why should you care about the flea life cycle? Because only 5% of the flea population in your home are adult fleas. The rest are eggs, pupae, and worm-like larvae that live in carpet and other dark places. So, 95% of any given flea infestation is made up of fleas you can't see. The only way to get rid of flea eggs and larvae that lurk unseen in your home is to break the flea life cycle and prevent a new generation from hatching.

The flea life cycle is made up of four stages:

1. Eggs



Look closely, and you can see these pearl-white ovals with your naked eye. They are laid on your pet and fall from the fur wherever your pets like to spend their time. Female fleas lay up to 2,000 eggs in a lifetime. The eggs hatch within 2-7 days.

2. Larvae



Repelled by light, these white, maggot-like worms seek out dark areas such as carpets, where they feed on flea feces and debris. They shed their skins three times until they are ready to spin a cocoon.

3. Pupae



Fully formed adult fleas remain in the cocoon until stimulated to emerge. It could take a week or months.

4. Adults



Most feed within 15 minutes of finding a host and every 30 minutes thereafter. They mate within 24 hours of emergence—launching the next generation of fleas in your home.

The key to controlling fleas is to consistently break their life cycle at the egg stage so they don't develop into adult fleas. While topical flea control products kill adult fleas, [SENTINEL[®] \(milbemycin oxime/lufenuron\) Flavor Tabs[®]](#) target fleas at the egg stage, before they ever develop into larvae. One of the active ingredients in SENTINEL[®] Flavor Tabs[®] is ingested by the flea in the blood meal and passed to the developing egg, where it kills the eggs and larvae. SENTINEL[®] Flavor Tabs[®] are the only oral once-a-month flavor tab that protects against five common [parasites](#), including fleas. Combined with a short-term treatment with [CAPSTAR[®] \(nitenpyram\) Tablets](#), SENTINEL[®] Flavor Tabs[®] help you beat fleas at multiple stages of their life cycle, killing both the fleas you see and the ones you don't.

Dogs must be tested for heartworm prior to using SENTINEL[®] (milbemycin oxime/lufenuron) Flavor Tabs[®]. In a small percentage of dogs, digestive, neurological and skin side effects may occur. In a 90 day safety study, the combination use of SENTINEL[®] Flavor Tabs[®] and CAPSTAR[®] (nitenpyram) Tablets was well tolerated.