

The Range Animal Hospital

E6116 U. S. Highway 2
Ironwood, MI 49938
906-932-3531
1-888-380-6319

* * * * *

Donald C. Martinson DVM

Stephanie D. B. Holloway
DVM

* * * * *

Advanced
Diagnostics, Medicine
Surgery, Dentistry, &
Trauma Care
for
Large & Small Animals

* * * * *

Fleas & Ticks!

FLEAS & TICKS

Why won't one flea bath get rid of your flea problem? Because adult fleas make up only 1% of the flea population. Only adult fleas climb on and bite your pet. The remainder of the fleas exist as eggs, larvae, and pupae. Fleas DO NOT live on your dog, they only jump on for a quick meal and then go off to lay eggs in the environment. Flea shampoo will only kill the few adults currently on your pet, it will not repel additional fleas or kill any in your house or yard.

Flea infestations start with a few fleas brought into your home by your pet. They catch a blood meal on the way in, drop off, and begin laying thousands of eggs. A few weeks later, you have a major flea problem! An excellent way to prevent fleas is to kill any fleas **before** they get into the house and **before** they begin to lay eggs. The best product to accomplish this is "**Vectra 3D.**"

A small amount of "**Vectra 3D**" is applied to the back of your pet and disperses into the skin. It kills any fleas (and ticks) that come in contact with the hair. Even if a flea is carried into your home and gets a blood meal, it will die before it can lay any eggs and cause an infestation.

What should you do if your animal and home have become infested with fleas? First, bathe your pet with a shampoo containing pyrethrin to kill many of the adult fleas and to remove flea dirt. Then, two days later, apply "**Vectra 3D**" for a long-acting effect to kill new adult fleas. Next, the house and furniture should be thoroughly vacuumed, this includes moving all the furniture and vacuuming under it. After vacuuming, throw the bag away because the

eggs and larvae will hatch in the bag and adult fleas will emerge. The house will then need to be treated with a product such as "**ECTO KYL**" which kills adults and also contains an insect growth regulator which prevents eggs and larvae from maturing into adults -- a **very** important step in eliminating fleas. It is available in a fogger or a pump spray. The disadvantage to foggers is that the chemical covers countertops and every surface in your home and does not get under furniture. Pump sprays are the best because you can control the spray and can direct it under furniture, thereby, efficiently treating your home.

Will one treatment of the house or pet stop the flea problem? Probably NOT! If you missed spraying some of the eggs or larvae in your home, or if you do not treat your pet with "**Vectra 3D**" as directed, your problem will likely continue. It is important to follow label directions and reapply products accordingly.

Why bother eradicating fleas? Fleas will bite you and your dog causing itching and irritation.

Flea bites can also cause severe skin disease in dogs that are allergic to flea saliva, can carry tapeworm eggs, and can cause debilitating anemia in heavily infested animals.

Why don't we recommend products like "**PROGRAM**" and "**SENTINEL**" and "**FrontLine Top Spot?**" Because the fleas are not repelled by these products and are able to bite your dog before the medication in this product works. Your dog will still be miserable from the bites. Products that kill and repel **BEFORE** fleas bite are the best.

Also, we recommend "**Vectra 3D**" because it kills both fleas and ticks, including the tick that causes Lyme disease.