

# Fleas

## Information leaflet

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Adult fleas are normally 1 - 4mm long, brownish in colour, hard-bodied without wings, and with relatively large hind limbs which enable them to jump from one host to another. The young stages are thin worm like larvae.

## WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Adult fleas live on the blood of warm blooded animals. Wall-to-wall carpeting and soft furnishings also provide a relatively undisturbed environment for fleas to develop. They can also live in cracks and crevices in bare floors.

## WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Adult fleas feed solely on blood and the Larvae feed on debris and adult flea droppings.

## DISEASE TRANSMISSION

Although not all people are affected by flea bites, they can cause severe irritation. Fleas are not thought to transmit any serious illnesses to humans.

## CONTROL MEASURES

If you have a pet it is **vital** that some form of flea control is regularly used, such as a flea collar, flea comb and/ or approved flea treatment.

Regular cleaning, particularly with a vacuum cleaner, will help prevent the build-up of infestation by removing eggs and larvae from floors, furniture and where pets sleep.

Flea Sprays can also be purchased from hardware stores and applied to carpets and other soft furnishings. Please read the instructions on the label before applying.

If a blanket or other material is infested, either burn the article or wash it thoroughly.

You may also wish to consider contacting a pest control company to eradicate the fleas. These can be found on the internet or in the yellow pages.

This Council does not provide a pest control treatment service at the present time, however should you require further advice please contact Environmental Services on 01353 665555.

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL.**