

# FACT sheet

## Fleas

*"...most females will lay at least 100 eggs within a life cycle of several months..."*

# EXODUS

## PEST CONTROL

### **Fleas**

Fleas are highly specialized bloodsucking parasite usually light brown to mahogany in colour and roughly oval shaped measuring 2-8 mm in length. The life cycle of a flea is similar to a moth ñ egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon) and adult. They can emerge from the pupal case in 1-2 weeks but can remain dormant in their cocoons for several months depending on the availability of food and conditions. A newly hatched adult flea is unfed, small, black and aggressive- commonly referred to as a ground or sand flea. After a feed they lighten in colour and become larger, the female flea is ready to mate and lay eggs at this stage (about 24hours after hatching). Ten fleas can potentially reproduce to 250,000 in only 30 days!

Prolonged periods of warm humid weather in the summer months provide ideal conditions for fleas to flourish. So it is important to act fast in partnership with your professional pest technician to control the environment and prevent serious infestations in your home and on your pets.



Cat flea



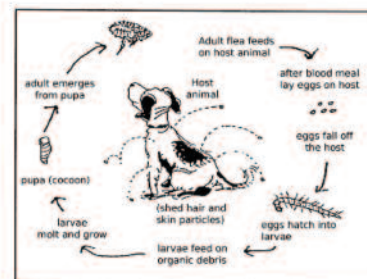
Cat flea

### **Treatments**

A successful treatment for fleas is a combined effort between the home owner and the pest technician. If all steps are followed a successful outcome will be achieved within a few weeks. The solution involves treatment of the pet and the pet's environment along with some patience. The expectation should not be instant control. The life cycle of the flea and the inability of the chemical to penetrate the eggs mean you may still see fleas for up to a few weeks. When the adult stage comes into contact with the chemical it will die within a few hours. It is important to have movement in all areas to encourage the hatching during this service period.



Human flea



### **Steps - Before we arrive**

- \* Treat your pet(s) with a registered product. You may seek advice from your Veterinarian and remember soaps or shampoos may reduce the residual action of the treatment.
- \* Mow your lawn fairly short to allow the chemical easy access to the soil
- \* Vacuum your carpeted and floorboard areas and dispose of contents in a sealed bag into the bin

### **Day of treatment**

- \* Remove pet(s) from the premise for the day and follow directions of technician while he is there
- \* We will blanket spray any carpeted or floorboard areas inside and spray outside areas paying particular attention to pets favorite spots.

### **After treatment**

- \* Leave your pet in infested areas to encourage hatching
- \* Make sure no areas are closed off to activity, again movement encourages hatching. You may run over areas with a broom to speed up process
- \* Continue to treat pets with registered products as per label instructions

We can issue warranties if all above steps are followed and continual treatment of your pets will help prevent re-infestation.