



Flea Quiz

Let's see how well you know your fleas!

Answer True or False

1. Fleas go from egg to larvae (like maggots) to pupae (in a cocoon) to adult that makes another egg.
2. Adult fleas jump off your pet after they feed.
3. Fleabites can cause allergic reactions and fleas can carry diseases.
4. You will usually notice fleas shortly after they come into your house.
5. Larvae don't like the light and will crawl under furniture and chair cushions.
6. Larvae curl around carpet fibers so vacuuming them up is harder.
7. The pupae are killed easily.
8. The pupae hatch in 15-20 days.
9. Pupae will hatch at different times making it more difficult to kill all of the adults.
10. Vacuuming doesn't really help much.
11. Once I treat my pets with a good product from my veterinarian, I won't see fleas again.
12. I don't need to treat my cats that don't go outside.
13. I should treat every month to make sure fleas don't stay in my house and hatch during warm spells.
14. Pets get tapeworms from eating fleas.
15. Fleas will bite humans and can cause an itchy rash.

Answers

1. True
2. False – fleas stay on your pet the entire time; they don't jump off one pet and onto another.
3. True
4. False –you won't notice a few fleas so when you do, they've been in your house for a month or more.
5. True
6. True
7. False – they are resistant to everything except flames (we DO NOT advise burning down your house to get rid of them!)
8. False – the pupae hatch only when they detect the right amount of humidity, carbon dioxide (when we breathe) or sense vibration. They can hatch as quickly as 3 days or wait up to a year. This helps explain why you keep having fleas, especially if you stop treatment.
9. True
10. False – vacuuming will pick up many stages as well as encourage some pupae to hatch (because of the vibration) so the adults can be vacuumed up. Be sure to vacuum under furniture and cushions to get the larvae that crawled under there.
11. False (unfortunately!) – you can easily see fleas for 3-4 months as new fleas hatch out of pupae. It's common to think the flea product isn't working because you keep seeing fleas, only to see a dramatic improvement after the first month because you've interrupted the life cycle.
12. False – this is often the reason people have fleas or can't get it under control. Fleas can come inside on people or your outside pet brings them in. If you see fleas, they are in the house so treat every pet.
13. True
14. True – your pets should be treated for tapeworms if they have fleas
15. True

So how'd you do? If you got 12-15 correct, you are in great shape to avoid problems with fleas. If you got 8-12 correct, you know some things but your pets might be at risk. If you got less than 8 correct, read our article on fleas. However, you are already smarter just from taking this quiz!