

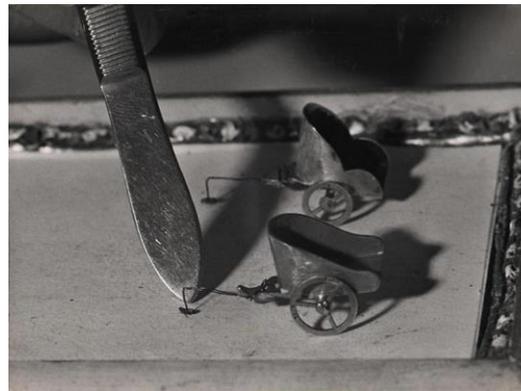
## How To Get Rid Of Fleas In Your Home

- Wash pet bedding regularly to kill flea eggs and larvae
- Vacuum often to collect a lot of the immature fleas
- Prevent your pet from going places where there are fleas. This can include under the house or deck, or in moist shady areas with tall grasses and vegetation
- Don't allow untreated pets into your house
- To see what parts of your home have a flea infestation, you can walk in white socks. Where you see small dark dots appearing on your socks means there is a flea source nearby.
- Talk to your vet about treating your pet to prevent fleas
- If your home is infested with fleas, contact a licensed pest control company to treat the home

## Things To Remember About Fleas

- You will probably not get sick from a flea bite
- Most people get fleas from a pet
- Only adult fleas bite

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, fleas were used in flea circuses, where they could 'pull' carts and perform various 'tricks'.



## Fleas



**For more information:  
Darke County General Health  
District**

**300 Garst Avenue Greenville, OH 45331**

**Phone: 937-548-4196**

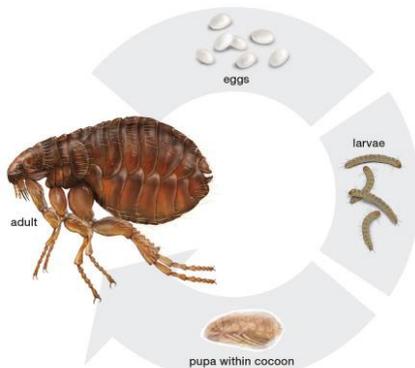
**Fax: 937-548-9654**

**[www.darkecountyhealth.org](http://www.darkecountyhealth.org)**

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## Flea Biology

- Only adult fleas bite
- Fleas have flattened bodies which lets them crawl between dog or cat hairs
- Fleas can lay 30-50 eggs a day
- Flea eggs can fall off of your pet, and onto their bedding. The flea larvae are able to feed on dried blood and other debris on bedding
- Fleas cannot fly, but they have powerful legs, and can jump up to 13 inches. That is the same as a human jumping 900 feet!
- There are almost 2,000 species of fleas around the world, but cat fleas are what you usually find on pets
- For every adult flea you see, there are 100 you don't



## How Do I Get Fleas?

- Pets usually get fleas from their environment, not from other pets
- Fleas can be found in the environment, especially under decks, porches and in damp, shady areas of your yard with lots of vegetation
- If there is a large infestation, you can get fleas jumping on you from your pet. These are often fleas that are just emerging from their cocoon

## How Do I Know If I Am Bitten By A Flea?

- Flea bites are itchy, and can become a red welt, similar to a mosquito bite
- Flea bites will often have a small red dot in the center, where the flea actually bit
- Flea bites will itch continuously

## Can I Get Sick From A Flea Bite?

- In the United States, fleas are not considered a major health threat
- The biggest health threat associated with flea bites comes from skin infections due to scratching the bites
- The oriental flea and rat flea are capable of spreading disease, but are usually not found in our area
- Fleas have been known to spread diseases such as the Black Death and typhus
- Fleas can spread Murine Typhus, and there have been a handful of cases reported in Texas, California and Hawaii

