

EAR MITES

Nature of the beast: Ear mites, another type of arachnid, attack cats more than dogs. These pests feed off lymph from pierced cells, causing inflammation, crusting, and scabbing. Severe infestations can damage the middle ear, causing the animal to hold its head to one side and wander around in circles. Heavy scratching can lead to ear canker, an infection that can cause loss of hearing if left untreated.

Warning signs: Suspect ear mites if your pet scratches its ears or shakes its head a lot. Examine the ears. A sure sign: black, tarry gunk, a mixture of mite excreta, dried blood, and ear wax, in the ear canal.

Action: Plain mineral oil works fine for light or moderate infestations. The oil suffocates the mites and loosens wax and other material in the ear canal. Apply with an eyedropper and massage the outside

of the ear, to work it down the canal. Remove the discharge or excess oil with a tissue or a swab (but be careful not to probe too deeply, lest you damage the eardrum). Repeat at four- or five-day intervals for two weeks to eliminate any new generations that have hatched. If the symptoms haven't improved by then, the infestation is severe or a secondary infection has set in; take the animal to the vet.

LISTINGS OF FLEA AND TICK KILLERS

Listed alphabetically. The products here have been selected from a much larger range of products on the market, based primarily on comparatively low hazard. First try one of the **gentler** products (or another with those active ingredients). If that doesn't work, try a **stronger** product. Gentler products contain: fatty acids (FA), diatomaceous earth (DE), silica gel (SG), the citrus oils d-limonene (DL) or linalool (LL), hydroprene (HY), methoprene (MP), pyrethrins (PY), or

the pyrethroids allethrin (AL), cyfluthrin (CY), fenvalerate (FV), permethrin (PM), phenothrin (PH), resmethrin (RS), or tetramethrin (TM). Stronger products contain rotenone (RO), piperonyl butoxide (PB), MGK 264 (M2), or petroleum distillates (PD), whose chronic health effects remain unknown. Before using any product, read the entire label and follow directions exactly. If you can't find a product, call the company. Phone numbers are on page 549.

Brand Name	Active ingredients
PRODUCTS TO USE ON PETS	
Gentler products	
Daltek Organic Flea Spray for Dogs [1]	DL
Diatom Dust	DE
Flea Stop Pet Spray	DL,LL
Flea Stop Concentrated Shampoo	LL
Perma-guard Fossil Shell Flour	DE
Rid-a-Flea Flea & Tick Killer for Dogs & Cats	RS
Safe Entire Flea and Tick Spray	FA,PY
Safe Flea Shampoo	FA
Sudbury Flea & Tick Dip Concentrate for Dogs	PM
Victory Veterinary Formula Spray for Dogs	PM,PY
Stronger products	
Ace Hardware Pet & Home Flea & Tick Killer	AL,M2,PD,PH
Cardinal Flea & Tick Shampoo	PB,PY
Cardinal Shampoo for Cats and Kittens	PB,PD,PY
Daltek Timed-Release Flea Foam for Cats	PB,PD,PY
Drione	PB,PY,SG
Four Paws Flea and Tick Shampoo for Dogs	M2,PB,PD,PY
Four Paws Flea Foam Dry Bath for Dogs [1]	M2,PB,PD,PY
Hartz Cat Flea Powder	RO
Hartz 2-in-1 products: soap, dip, spray, luster bath, mousse, and shampoo for dogs [1]	M2,PB,PD,PY
Natra Aloepet Shampoo for Dogs & Cats	PB,PY
Ortho Pet Flea & Tick Spray Formula III	PB,PY
Perma-guard Pet & Animal Insecticide	DE,PB,PY
Petland Flea/Tick Shampoo	PB,PD,PY
Raid Flea Killer	M2,PB,PY,TM
Real-Kill Pet & Home Flea Killer	AL,M2,PD,PH
Ringer Flea & Tick Attack	PB,PY
Sergeant's Skip-Flea Shampoo for Dogs	AL,PB
Sulfodene Scratchex Power Dip	M2,PB,PY
Zenox Flea & Tick Shampoo for Dogs	PB,PY
Zodiac Flea & Tick Pump Spray Mist	PB,PY
Zodiac Fleatrol Spray for Dogs & Puppies [1]	MP,PB,PY
Zodiac Flea & Tick Shampoo for Dogs & Cats	PB,PD,PY
Zodiac Pyrethrin Dip for Dogs & Puppies [1]	PB,PY

PRODUCTS TO USE AROUND THE PET

Gentler products	
Black Flag Flea & Tick Killer Rug & Room Spray	PH,TM

Brand Name	Active ingredients
Black Flag Flea Ender	HY,PM
Black Flag Flea Killer II	PH,TM
Ortho Flea-B-Gon Flea Killer Formula II	PH,TM
Ortho Insecticidal Soap	FA
Raid Multi-Bug Killer Formula D39	AL,RS
Zodiac Fleatrol Indoor Concentrate	MP
Stronger products	
d-Con Flea & Tick Killer II	AL,M2,PH
Diacide Pet Powder	DE,PB,PY
Gro-Well No Mix Flea & Tick Spray	PB,PY
Hartz 2-in-1 Time Release Flea & Tick Killer	M2,PB,PY
Perma-guard Household Insecticide	DE,PB,PY
Raid Flea Killer Plus	M2,PM,PB,PY,TM
Raid House & Garden Formula 8	AL,PD,RS
Revenge Home Exterminator Kit	SG,PB,PD,PY
Sergeant's Rug Patrol	AL,PB,PH
Zodiac Fleatrol Indoor Spray	MP,PB,PM,PY
Zodiac Fleatrol Carpet Spray	MP,PB,PD,PY

FOGGERS

Gentler products	
Black Flag Pre-Adult Flea Killer	MP
Raid Fumigator	PM
Spectracide Professional Flea Control	MP
Zodiac House & Kennel	PM
Zodiac Fleatrol	MP,PM
Stronger products	
Black Flag Adult Flea Killer Indoor Step 2	PD,PH,TM
Black Flag Automatic Room	PB,PD,PY
Black Flag Flea Killer System	MP,PD,PH,TM
Black Flag Large Area Automatic Room	PD,PH,TM
Black Flag Roach	PB,PD,PY
Four Paws Fast Killing Indoor	PD,TM
Holiday Household Insect	FV,M2,PB
Holiday Household Insect New Pine Scent	PD,PH,TM
Ortho Hi-Power Indoor Insect Formula IV	FV,M2,PB,PY
Raid	M2,PB,PD,PY
Raid II	M2,PB,PY,RS,TM
Raid Max	CY,M2,PB,PY
Sergeant's Indoor	AL,FV,PD

[1] Sold in version for cats with same active ingredients.