



# FLEA & FEED HANDOUT FOR A HEALTHIER PET

## Natural and Preventative Flea Treatment

### DIATOMACEOUS EARTH \*USE ONLY FOOD GRADE\*

(Diatomaceous Earth can be used as a **natural flea preventative**, which kills fleas by dehydrating them. Check with local your pet food & farm supply stores for availability.)

**ALLERGY WARNING:** Product Contains Shellfish. Diatomaceous Earth is a very fine, silky powder. It is messy and may irritate eyes and throat. **Before use**, sprinkle a little in a small area to test and see if there are any negative reactions from you or your family members.

**STORE** in a dry place, out of reach of children & pets, in an airtight container.

If fleas are already on the animal/in the household, Diatomaceous Earth may work best when used in conjunction with a topical flea treatment such as Advantage or Frontline.

#### **FLEA CONTROL IN THE ENVIRONMENT:**

- Vacuuming/washing bedding prior to applying Diatomaceous Earth can be beneficial.
- Sprinkle the diatomaceous earth powder on floor and bedding in and around pets' sleeping quarters. Treat surrounding cracks and crevices, baseboards, carpeting and wherever fleas and other crawling insects are suspected. You only need to sprinkle enough of the powder to leave a dusting. You can vacuum/wash bedding etc after the Diatomaceous Earth is allowed to sit for at least a few hours, overnight or a few days, if doable.
- Repeat the process two or three more times, two or three days apart, to help fully eliminate the fleas in the home.

#### **FLEA CONTROL ON THE PET:**

- Diatomaceous Earth can be directly applied on your dog or cat to get rid of fleas, but since it is a drying agent, it may dry out your pet's skin.
- Apply Diatomaceous Earth with your hands/fingers and work it gently throughout your pet's fur, so it's evenly distributed. **Try not to get the powder into your pets' eyes or ears** and remember to apply Diatomaceous Earth in the environment to break the flea cycle.

*Along with Diatomaceous Earth, there are several natural flea & worm prevention products on the market. Check with your local pet supply and farm stores, to see what they have available and recommend.*

#### **Diatomaceous Earth Information/Sources:**

<https://www.diatomaceousearth.com/natural-pesticides/>

<http://www.gsp-rescue.org/diatomaceous-earth-food-grade-for-natural-flea-control/eatlocalgrown.com/article/13670-uses-for-diatomaceous-earth.html>

## Other Alternatives for Flea and Worm Treatment:

**Advantage, Frontline** (Fipronil) or **Revolution** are considered the safest flea treatment formulas. These are liquid (chemical) products used topically on the skin, applied to the back of the neck (follow label directions).

Note: It is strongly recommended to use ONLY cat-approved flea treatment products on cats.

### DE-WORMING RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Tapeworms:

Tapeworms come from ingesting fleas or hunting rodents or rabbits. Tapeworms look like small wiggly worms when on fresh stools, or like dried rice grains or sesame seeds when they dry. Look for them on your pet's bedding & stuck to the hairs around their bottom.

Worm medication containing **PRAZIQUANTAL** is recommended for tape worms. Other products do not work, or have not been deemed safe. **Check with your local pet or farm supply store for PRAZIQUANTAL products or with your local vet about other tapeworm medications.**



(example of advised Praziquantel tapeworm medication)

#### Roundworms:

**Pyrantal Pamoate** is considered the safest and most effective roundworm treatment. Other roundworm treatment products are not recommended.

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### FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- It's important to always provide fresh water for your animal(s)
- It's beneficial that cats & dogs get nutritional value from their diet, so feed the best quality food you can afford. Make any changes very **SLOWLY** & gradually (over weeks-months)

#### **Additional Recommendations for Cats:**

- Incorporating wet food into your cat's diet can help hydrate them and may be easier to digest
- Grain-free brands and limiting seafood-based foods (higher sodium content) are ideal for cat's overall health and urinary health

#### **What to look for on Pet Food Labels:**

- Specific meat/protein (chicken, beef, salmon, turkey etc.) in at least **one or more of the first four ingredients**
- Preferably **Corn, Wheat & Soy** products are **NOT in all of the first four ingredients**

