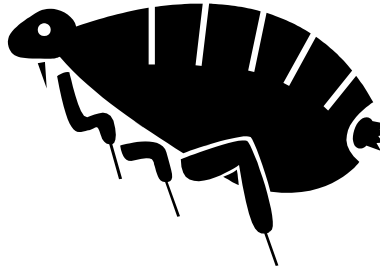


# Fleas in Colorado

By Joel D. Stahlecker, D.V.M.

Dog and cat fleas have been with our pets and us since the beginning of time. Colorado Mountains are quite unique in that we do not have dog and cat fleas here because they don't survive well above 5,000 feet. We do, however, have fleas here, the rodent or ground squirrel flea.

This flea is notorious for one thing. It carries and spreads Bubonic Plague. This is the disease of the middle ages that devastated Europe. Plague is caused by bacteria and is spread by flea bites. Because these fleas like their natural hosts, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, and chipmunks so well, our dogs and cats are not often affected. However if you ever see fleas, small, black, jumping insects on your pet you should immediately seek to control these fleas. Cats and humans are quite likely to catch Plague if bitten by infected fleas. Colorado actually has more human plague cases than most other states.



The product that I recommend is Frontline. Frontline kills fleas quickly and is safe and easily applied by spotting on the skin between the pet's shoulder blades.

If you have questions about flea or tick control, or other concerns feel free to call us at 395-8900.