

## Let's Talk Fleas

Fleas are a wingless, bloodsucking insect that feeds on warm blooded mammal's, unfortunately this means that us as humans. Obviously, they are not welcome in our homes, although there are various species, the most common around is the cat flea or known as *Ctenocephalides felis*.

Ok so how does this problem get started in our homes and what do we do about it?

Many times, fleas are brought into our lawns by visiting wildlife such as rabbits, raccoons, squirrels etc. Then often time they are transported into our homes by our pets, or even by ourselves, as fleas can jump about 6 inches. The flea will hitchhike a ride on our pants or on our shoes.

At this point you may want to have your home treated by one of our pest control specialist! Preparation is the key to any good treatment.

List of things to do prior to treatment:

- 1) Pick up all personal items from the floor (this should include under the beds and closets)
- 2) Vacuum everything thoroughly (carpets, hardwood floors, upholstery furniture etc.)
- 3) Remove vacuum bag from the house
- 4) Also for pet owners- pets should be on an approved flea program.

It's now time for your pest control specialist to treat your home with an appropriate pesticide and IGR (Insect Growth Regulator), it may in some cases be necessary to treat your lawn also.

Most eggs will hatch within 14 days, the IGR interferes with fleas reaching adult stage, and the insecticide will kill eggs, larva, pupae and the adult stages.

Please call with any more questions we will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Oh, by the way NOW would be a great time to treat the exterior of your homes for those annoying crickets!!!!