

# Non-Toxic Solutions for Pest Control with Pets



**A few eco-friendly tips on controlling and repelling insect pests that bother pets such as fleas, ticks, etc.**

Note: You should ALWAYS check with your veterinarian before trying any new treatment on or near your pet.

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## In and Around the Home:

Protecting your pet from fleas, ticks and other pests is an important part of caring for your pet responsibly. Although there are many brands of over-the-counter insect control products available at supermarkets and pet supply stores, it is critical to read their labels carefully and consult with your veterinarian before using them on your pet. These products may contain ingredients that could seriously harm pets and children and because of this, many people choose to control pests in a natural or non-toxic manner.

**Preventative Measures:** Comb your pet regularly with a flea comb, vacuum frequently and dispose of the bags immediately after use, mow areas of the lawn where your dog spends time, wash pet bedding weekly, and wash your pet with a pesticide-free pet shampoo.

### For Fleas From and On Dogs

Assuming you don't own a cat, and you keep your windows open, you can use citrus peel extract products (USE CAUTION: citrus-peel extract is a very strong substance that can be harmful). Get rid of fleas in your house by washing floors twice a week with a solution of 1/4 cup citrus peel extract (available in health food stores--citra solve is one brand) in 1 to 2 gallons of water. Spray bedding with a mixture of 2 teaspoons citrus peel extract and 2 cups of water in a spray bottle. Don't use citrus around cats. Note that there are a number of pure citrus-peel-based pet products on the market.

### Herbal Repellents For Cats, Dogs and Other Animals

Herbal repellents work well to repel fleas. Make an herbal infusion by adding a handful of dried herbs (available in most health food stores) to a tea pot and fill with boiling water. Let the "tea" set overnight, and then strain it into a spray bottle. Recommended herbs include southernwood, rue, rosemary, sage, catmint, eucalyptus, and leaves from the black walnut tree. Start with just a small amount to make sure the pet can tolerate the herb.

Boric acid and borax are also widely used against fleas. Sprinkle a thin powder of boric acid or borax on carpets, leave on for a few days, and then vacuum up.





## Board of Butler County Commissioners

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### Other Flea Controls

- Feed your dogs (but not cats) garlic and yeast.
- Wash your pets frequently.
- Use a flea comb.
- Make your own flea shampoo.
- Use a natural flea collar.

**Water Trap:** Partially fill a shallow pan with water. Suspend light source securely above it. Fleas (and other bugs) are attracted to the light, jump or fall into the water and drown. Water's surface tension enables many small insects, such as fleas to be able to walk, or hop right across water. A few drops of liquid soap (earth friendly brands work fine, too), should be added to the water pan. This breaks the surface tension of the water, causing the insects to drown.

**Ticks and Lice:** Plant around house, (or make sachets or sprays of infusions of) spike lavender, garlic, geranium, citronella, eucalyptus, clove, camphor, atlas cedarwood, mints, thyme, basil, rosemary, lemon balm, chili peppers.

**Fly Trap:** Take a small glass and pour 1 inch of dark cider vinegar in the glass. Take some plastic wrap and cover the top of the glass - securing with a rubber band. Take a sharp object like a bamboo skewer and poke holes in the plastic wrap. Put the glass near your fly problem, they crawl down into the plastic wrap holes but not out. Empty the glass outdoors far away from your house or shake well until all flies are too wet to fly away and flush down the drain. Change cider daily. Red wine works as well.

**Insect Growth Regulators:** Consider using a product with insect-growth regulators (IGRs), which are not pesticides. These will prevent the next generation of fleas but will not kill insects already on your pet. Common and effective IGR products include those made with lufenuron (found in Program® and Sentinel® and available by prescription), methoprene (in Precor®), and pyriproxyfen (in Nylar® and EcoKyl®). Your veterinarian can probably recommend products for this type of use.

**Keeping pests away from your pets is a job in itself indeed!  
Hopefully this pamphlet will give you a few more ideas on wining  
the battle against these bothersome pests.**



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