The Secret to Natural Flea and Tick Control

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**Fleas and Ticks**

If you have a pet, chances are you are worried about fleas and ticks. Everything you need to do to control pests on your pet this year falls into these three easy-to-remember categories:

- Keep your pet pest-free
- Keep your home pest-free
- Keep your yard pest-free

I am completely against using harsh chemical agents on my pets to repel or kill pests. Aside from just being common sense that these chemicals are dangerous, you can find plenty of testimonials from pet owners whose pets have suffered negative side effects while using them.

Potential side effects from flea treatments run the gamut. Side effects can be mild, such as minor skin irritation where the treatment was applied. More severe reactions, however, can be commonplace. Flea treatment can result in vomiting, diarrhea, brain damage, heart attacks, seizures and even death. According to the Humane Society of the United States, "at least 1,600 pet deaths related to spot-on treatments with pyrethroids were reported to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) over the last five years."

The active ingredients in these solutions include chemicals such as imidacloprid, fipronil, permethrin, methoprene, and pyriproxyfen, all of which have caused serious health problems in animals in laboratories.

For more read this report [Are “Spot-On” Flea Killers Safe?](http://alternativeanimal.com)

Even some of the inert ingredients can be hazardous to your animal companion's health.

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency received more than 44,000 complaints of "adverse reactions" ranging from skin irritation to seizures and death, and has since been "pursuing a series of actions to increase the safety of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for cats and dogs that suffer from the side effects of toxic chemicals and drugs they were exposed to for any number of reasons, including pest control."

And to make matters worse, many of these pets still get fleas and ticks even with the use of toxic chemical agents.
That’s why I believe in using natural pest repellents and other non-toxic pest control methods whenever possible.

These recipes are mainly for dogs since they all contain essential oils. At the end you’ll find some for cats. Cats have a hard time with essential oils and some can even be fatal so take great caution. Only use the ones on the list in your recipes.

Here are some flea and tick recipes that can help to keep your pet pest-free. If you would rather not make your own there are many great options available at Alternative Animal

**Natural Flea and Tick Recipes for Dogs**

Follow These Steps:

1. Cut ten organic lemons into quarters or eighths.
2. Place the lemons in a bucket.
3. Pour a kettle (about 6 cups) of water over the top of the lemons.
4. Leave the lemons to soak for 1 to 2 days.
5. Remove lemons from the water and discard.
6. Mix the lemon water with a dash of vinegar to emulsify the essential oils that are added next.
7. Add a dash of an insect repellent essential oil, such as lavender oil
8. In addition **5 to 6 drops only** of teatree, citronella or eucalyptus oil per 500 ml (about 2 cups) of mixture can be added BUT no more, as too much is toxic.
9. Place the mixture into a clean hand held pump spray or atomizer.
10. Spray your dog’s entire body.
11. Keep spraying daily until the flea life cycle of about 1 month is complete and therefore fleas in the area, having not been able to feed will be dead.

Ticks are much more difficult to repel therefore make certain that you spray your dog before entering the known tick area, but ALWAYS check your dog for ticks after.

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Flea and Tick Spritz Recipe

- 1 cup of Distilled Water
- 2 Drops Geranium Essential Oil
- 1 Drop Myrrh Essential Oil
- 1 Drop Peppermint Essential Oil
- 1 Drop of Thieves Hand Soap or Castile Soap (emollient)

Place in a spray bottle and shake. Spritz when needed!

Yes, you can use this recipe for you or your horse!

Flea and Tick Spritzer Blend

- 2 drops of Lavender, Basil, Lemon, Eucalyptus
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vodka
- 1 cup of dried marjoram, eucalyptus, rosemary
- 2 cups of water

Flea and Tick Spray

- 2 drops of cedarwood, lemongrass, rose geranium
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vodka
- 1 cup of dried peppermint, eucalyptus, bay leaf herbs
- 1-2 cups of water

Add the essential oils and vodka in a bottle, tighten the lid and shake well. Once the mixture blended (should turn white), add apple cider vinegar. If you have some herbs mentioned above you can make an herbal tea to use in your spritzer.

Boil 2-4 cups of water and remove from heat. Add your dried herbs in the water and let simmer for 30 minutes. Once cool, drain and use instead of plain water in your spritzer. If you are using an herbal tea, this mixture must be kept in the refrigerator as the herbal teas have the tendency to go bad faster.

Once you have your spritzer you can use this by gently spraying it in to your dogs coat, legs, tummy and back. Rub it in well and apply it as necessary. Do not use any of the essential oils on your dogs face or around nose, ears and eyes. Respect the sensitive nose he/she has and go easy when using aromatic substances such as essential oils.

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**Flea and Tick Spray**

21 drops of Geranium  
14 drops of Lavender  
21 drops of Eucalyptus  
14 drops of Tea Tree

Mix in a plant sprayer with 250-300 mils of warm water and spray your dog while you groom not only will he/she smell wonderful but the insects hate it

Don't want to make your own flea and tick spray? If you would rather not make your own there are many great options available at [Alternative Animal](http://alternativeanimal.com)

**Use an herbal flea powder.**

**Flea Powder**

Combine one part each of as many of these powdered herbs as you can find: eucalyptus, rosemary, fennel, yellow dock, wormwood, and rue. Put this mixture in a shaker-top jar, such as a jar for parsley flakes. Apply the flea powder sparingly to your pet's coat by brushing backward with your hand or the comb and sprinkling it into the base of the hairs, especially on the neck, back, and belly. To combat severe infestations, use several times a week. Afterward, put your animal friend outside for awhile so the disgruntled tenants vacate in the yard and not in your house. Some herbal flea powders also contain natural pyrethrins, which are not strong flea-killers but do seem to greatly discourage them.

**Natural Flea and Tick Powder**

Diatomaceous Earth (DE)  
NEEM (dry form)  
Yarrow (dry form)

Mix these three dry ingredients in equal parts and pour them into a shaker jar. To apply to your dog, ruffle the hair back to expose the skin and apply small amounts working your way from the rear to the front. If you are using this mixture for ticks, be sure to cover the neck area. Rub it in briskly. For a medium sized dog, you should only need to use about a teaspoon of the dust. Apply the dust to your dog every month.

If you are treating for fleas, wash all bedding and apply the dust to every animal in the house. Once bedding is washed, you can dust beds and any carpeting with the mixture.

This mixture will work to repel flies and mosquitoes!
Protect Your Pet with a Collar

Forget about getting one of those stinky-chemically-laden collars that claim will keep your pet pest free for months. Make your own by getting a piece of cloth that will fit around your pet's neck. You can use scrap material, a colorful bandana or braid several strips of cloth together. Make sure the material is mostly made out of cotton to ensure absorbency and soak it in the following solution:

1 Tablespoon of common household alcohol 
3 Capsules of garlic cut in half - drop liquid contents in alcohol 
2 Drops of Cedarwood essential oil. 
2 Drops of Lavender. 
2 Drops of Thyme oil. 
2 Drops of Lemon Grass oil.

Allow the collar to soak through and dry thoroughly afterward. Once it has naturally dried, place around your pet's neck and enjoy 2-3 weeks pest free. Have extra collars handy and more of the liquid mix handy to replace the collar after 3 weeks.

Holistic Flea Wipes

Ingredients:

1. One box dry 100-count soft cotton paper wipes. (If you can't find these, you can use a 100 count box of non-scented, Aloe Vera baby wipes.)

2. In a large, clean, dark bottle, start with your base oil: ½ cup sweet almond oil

3. Add to this:

   • Clary Sage - 40 drops
   • Citronella - 10 drops
   • Peppermint - 25 drops
   • Lemon - 15 drops

Mix well by using a small hand mixer, available at any large drug store chain. This will help blend the oils into an emulsion. It is important to keep them blended until you pour them over the wipes. This will help ensure you have spread the mixture evenly over all 100 wipes. Store them in the refrigerator, and they will stay fresh, as well as nice and cool, for your dog.
Holistic Tick Wipes

Ingredients:

1. One box dry 100-count soft cotton paper wipes. (Again, you can substitute non-scented, Aloe Vera baby wipes.)

2. In a large, clean, dark bottle, start with your base oil: ½ cup sweet almond oil

3. Add to this:
   - Geranium - 40 drops
   - Rosewood - 40 drops
   - Lavender - 30 drops
   - Myrrh - 20 drops
   - Opoponax - 10 drops
   - Bay Leaf - 5 drops

Mix well by using a small hand mixer, and immediately pour the oil over the wipes. Spread the mixture evenly over all 100 wipes and store in the refrigerator.

Using Flea or Tick Wipes

These wipes smell great, they have aloe in them that is great for their skin, and they help repel fleas and ticks and keep the dogs' coats feeling soft. A box of 100 wipes will keep in the fridge for at least three months if kept well-sealed. Just pull out what you need at each use.

Please note: These wipes will only help repel fleas and ticks.

Don’t want to make your own flea and tick wipes? If you would rather not make your own there are many great options available at Alternative Animal

Natural Flea and Tick Repellent

2 TBLS vegetable oil
1 TBLS aloe vera gel
20 drops cedarwood oil
20 drops neem oil

Mix all ingredients together and put into a dropper bottle. Apply between shoulder blades, around neck, ears, and stomach. Reapply weekly or when you can no longer smell it.

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Natural Flea and Tick Recipes for Cats

Please be careful when using essential oils on cats. Cats can have an adverse reaction to some oils and they can even be fatal.

Here are the essential oils for cats that are very safe for cat use:

- Neem Oil
- Clary Sage Essential Oil
- Elemi Essential Oil
- Frankincense Essential Oil
- Geranium Essential Oil
- Helichrysum Essential Oil
- Idaho Balsam Fir Essential Oil
- Lavender Essential Oil
- Roman Chamomile Essential Oil
- Rosemary Essential Oil
- Valerian Essential Oil

Natural Flea Spray for Cats

A natural flea spray can be made of any combination of the above oils added to 8 oz of water. No more than 20 drops total per 8 oz of water. Mix well, put in a mister and then apply lightly to your cats fur and along the inside corners of the house. These herbs are toxic to fleas but safe for cats when sprayed on the fur or around the house.
Recipe for Neem Leaf Tea for Flea Control in Cats

By far the safest method of using neem as a flea treatment for cats is by using the neem LEAF. Neem leaf is very safe and can be ingested in small amounts and shows no adverse side effects.

Use fresh or dried neem leaves. Place in a bowl and cover with water in a ratio of 1 Kg of leaves (about 2 Lbs) to 5 liters (6 quarts) of water and allow them to soak overnight. Keep water at room temperature. The next day grind up the leaves in the water and then filter in two stages. Pour the mixture through cheese cloth and then through a filter paper like a coffee filter. The final result should be a clear liquid tea.

Spray neem tea on cats if they will allow it or apply liberally to a cloth and then rub the cat down for an excellent flea repellent. Repeat often for pets that spend time outdoors. It may be used bi-weekly in the summer months for flea and tick control.

Did you know?

*** Peppermint, Lavender, Cedar, Citronella, Lemon Grass and many other essential oils are natural pest repellents?
*** Mosquitos feed on your pet's blood to fertilize their eggs?
*** Mosquitoes will pass up on blood that smells like garlic?
*** Lemon Grass and Citronella are natural repellants used in zoos?
*** Pine Oil can be substituted for Cedarwood?
***Cedar shavings in pets bedding keep insects away?
*** Diatomaceous Earth can be used in pets bedding, carpet and in and around the yard to kill fleas and other insects. Make sure the DE is food grade, not pool filter grade as the latter is toxic if ingested.
***Bathe your pets. A soothing bath will kill fleas (via drowning)
***If fleas are a problem, comb your pet with a flea comb at least once a day, every day during pest season
***Vacuuming all the areas of your home your pet has access to is a crucial in controlling fleas indoors
***Nematodes are microscopic roundworms that eat flea larvae. Many people have had success using them in their gardens and yards to keep the flea population under control.

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