

# FLEAS & MITES IN CATS

## Understanding Common External Parasites

Fleas and mites are among the most common parasites affecting cats. They can cause itching, skin disease, ear problems, infections, and significant discomfort. Fortunately, most infestations can be treated and prevented with appropriate veterinary care.

*Regular parasite prevention is the best way to keep your cat healthy and comfortable.*

FLEAS AND MITES CAN AFFECT BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CATS.



## WHAT ARE FLEAS & MITES?

Fleas and mites are external parasites that live on or within the skin.

Common parasites include:

- Fleas
- Ear mites
- Notoedric mange (feline scabies)
- Demodex mites

These parasites can cause irritation, inflammation, hair loss, and secondary infections.



## DID YOU KNOW?

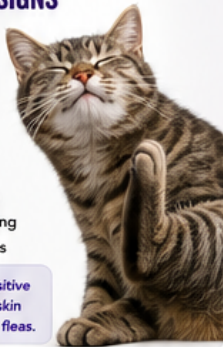
- A single flea can lay dozens of eggs every day.
- Most of the flea population lives in the environment rather than on your cat.
- Mites are microscopic and usually cannot be seen with the naked eye.



## 1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- Scratching and itching
- Excessive grooming
- Hair loss
- Red or inflamed skin
- Scabs or crusting
- Flea dirt (small black specks)
- Ear scratching or head shaking
- Dark discharge from the ears



**!** Some cats are highly sensitive and may develop severe skin reactions from only a few fleas.

## 2 HOW DO CATS GET FLEAS & MITES?

Cats can become infected through:

- Contact with other animals
- Exposure to contaminated environments
- Wildlife exposure
- Shared bedding
- Outdoor roaming
- Boarding or shelter environments

*Indoor cats can also become infected.*



## 3 WHICH CATS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Higher-risk cats include:

- Outdoor cats
- Multi-cat households
- Shelter and rescue cats
- Kittens
- Cats without regular parasite prevention

*However, any cat can develop fleas or mites.*



## 4 HOW ARE THEY DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- Examine your cat's skin and coat
- Check for flea dirt
- Examine ear debris
- Perform skin scrapings
- Use microscopic examination
- Assess areas of hair loss or irritation

*Proper diagnosis helps determine the most effective treatment.*



## 5 TREATMENT

Treatment may include:

- Prescription flea treatments
- Prescription mite treatments
- Ear medications
- Treatment of secondary infections
- Anti-itch medications
- Environmental control

**!** Always use products specifically recommended for cats. Some dog flea products can be toxic to cats.



## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Successful treatment often requires:

- Washing bedding regularly
- Vacuuming carpets and furniture
- Treating other household pets
- Cleaning resting areas
- Ongoing parasite prevention

*Environmental treatment helps prevent reinfection.*



## 7 PREVENTION

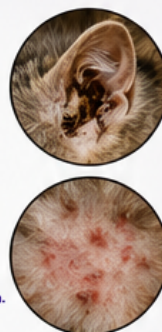
You can reduce the risk by:

- Using year-round parasite prevention
- Routine veterinary health checks
- Regular flea control
- Prompt treatment of skin problems
- Maintaining good household hygiene
- Monitoring for scratching or ear irritation



## ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Indoor cats can get fleas too.
- Ear mites are especially common in kittens.
- Flea allergy can cause severe itching.
- Year-round prevention offers the best protection.



## 8 COMMON TYPES OF FLEAS & MITES

**FLEAS**  
Cause itching, flea allergy and skin irritation.



**EAR MITES (Otodectes cynotis)**  
Cause ear irritation, waxy discharge and head shaking.



**NOTOEDRIC MANGE (Feline scabies)**  
Causes intense itching, crusts, and hair loss.



**DEMODEX MITES**  
Often found in kittens or cats with weakened immunity.



## EVERY CAT COUNTS

If your cat is scratching excessively, losing hair, shaking its head, or developing skin irritation, arrange a veterinary examination.

*Early treatment helps prevent discomfort, skin damage, and ongoing parasite problems.*

