

Flea allergy dermatitis (FAD)

FAD is an allergic reaction to flea saliva that causes irritated, inflamed skin.

Pets with FAD experience severe and intense itching from even a few flea bites. Because adult fleas can bite many times per day, any flea infestation causes a pet to constantly scratch and bite their skin, causing skin trauma, inflammation, and infection.



What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Scratching
- Red, bumpy skin
- Hair loss, especially on the back and hind end
- Fleas (although you may not see them)



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like skin condition
- Evidence of fleas and flea dirt
- Response to treatment
- Skin or blood allergy tests

▶ Your pet may be diagnosed with FAD even if no fleas are spotted.

How is it treated?

1 Treating current skin problems

Medicines, including anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, and special shampoos, can help treat skin inflammation and infection.

2 Killing the fleas on your pet

All pets should be on flea control year-round. Even with no visible fleas, your veterinary team will also recommend pet-safe products to kill existing fleas and prevent new infestations.

3 Preventing future flea infestations

Take anti-flea action in your home and yard. Several treatments may be necessary to eliminate all stages of the flea life cycle.



▶ Without flea control, FAD will be a recurring problem for your pet.

How to help your pet

- Use veterinarian-recommended flea-control products on your pet year-round
- Treat the environment—indoors and out—as well as your pet
- Read all labels thoroughly and use all medications as directed, as some products may be toxic if used incorrectly
- Bring your pet in for checkups as directed, even if the problem seems resolved
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

