

# Fleas and Ticks

## What are fleas and ticks?

They are parasites that bite or attach to animals and cause irritation and can spread disease.

- Some of the diseases fleas can spread
  - Tapeworms
  - Bartonella
  - Plague
- Some of the diseases ticks can spread
  - Lyme Disease
  - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
  - Ehrlichia
  - Babesia
  - Tick Paralysis
  - Hepatozoonosis - dogs
  - Cytauxzoonosis - cats
  - Hemobartonella
- They both can cause anemia, especially in very young puppies or kittens and itching that could lead to secondary bacterial infection from scratching
- They can cause hair loss and allergy flare-ups
- We recommend prevention all year round
- We carry Frontline and Revolution

Once again it is the flea and tick season. It's time for the monthly application of some form of protection. The importance of monthly protection is great. Just a reminder, fleas and ticks are parasites that bite or attach to animal and cause irritation or can spread disease. Some of the diseases fleas can spread are tapeworms and Bartonella. Ticks can spread Lyme Disease or Ehrlichia. Not only can they spread diseases, they can also cause anemia in puppies and kittens. They can also cause secondary infections from itching and cause hair loss. Argyle Veterinary Hospital recommends protection year-round due to the Texas "winters" and we carry Frontline and Revolution.

Heartworms are another disease that needs yearly protection. Heartworms are **spread by mosquitoes** and inside animals ARE NOT excluded from possible infection. The adult worms live in the pulmonary artery of the heart and if the disease gets severe enough it can cause coughing and lethargy/exercise intolerance. Argyle Veterinary Hospital recommends pets to be on prevention year-round due to the Texas "winters" and to be tested yearly to make sure the prevention is working. Just a quick cost fact, monthly protection is about \$3-6 a month versus \$695 or more for treatment. Argyle Veterinary Hospital carries heartgard and Revolution.