



Fleas and Ticks in Dogs



Why Flea and Tick Prevention Matters

Fleas and ticks are more than just a nuisance — they can cause serious discomfort and spread diseases that affect your dog's health. Protecting your pet year-round is essential for their comfort, safety, and well-being.



Fleas in Dogs

- **What they do:** Fleas bite and feed on blood, causing itching, irritation, and allergic reactions.
- *Health risks:*
 - Flea allergy dermatitis (severe itching, hair loss, skin infections)
 - Tapeworm transmission
 - Anemia in severe infestations (especially in puppies or small dogs)
- *Signs of fleas:*
 - Scratching, biting, or licking
 - Red, irritated skin
 - Hair loss or hot spots
 - Flea “dirt” (tiny black specks) in the coat



Ticks in Dogs

- **What they do:** Ticks attach to the skin and feed on blood.
- *Health risks:*
 - **Lyme disease** (can cause fever, lameness, joint swelling, kidney issues)
 - **Anaplasmosis & Ehrlichiosis** (tick-borne diseases affecting blood cells)
 - Skin irritation or infections at the bite site
- *Signs of ticks:*
 - Visible tick attached to skin (often in ears, between toes, or under collar)
 - Local redness or swelling
 - Unexplained fever, lethargy, or loss of appetite (may suggest tick-borne illness)



Flea and Tick Prevention



Prevention is far easier — and safer — than treating an infestation. Options include:

- *Monthly oral or topical preventives*
- **Long-lasting collars**
- **Environmental control** (vacuuming, washing bedding, treating yards if needed)

☞ *The best prevention plan depends on your dog's age, weight, lifestyle, and health.*

Flea and Tick Removal

- **Fleas:** *Bathing and veterinary-prescribed preventives are safest.*
- **Ticks:** *Use fine-tipped tweezers to remove the tick close to the skin, pulling straight out. Do not twist or crush the tick. Always check with your veterinarian after removal, especially if symptoms appear.*

Fleas & Ticks in Northern California

☞ **Bottom line:** *Fleas and ticks are active **year-round** in Northern California due to the mild climate. Even dogs who spend most of their time indoors are at risk, since fleas and ticks can hitch a ride on clothing, shoes, or other pets.*



Our Commitment at PVPC

At **Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic**, we:

- *Recommend safe, effective flea and tick preventives*
- *Tailor protection plans for your pet's needs and environment*
- *Help diagnose and treat flea- or tick-borne illnesses*
- *Provide year-round guidance to keep your pet healthy and parasite-free*



Call us today to discuss the best flea and tick prevention for your dog.