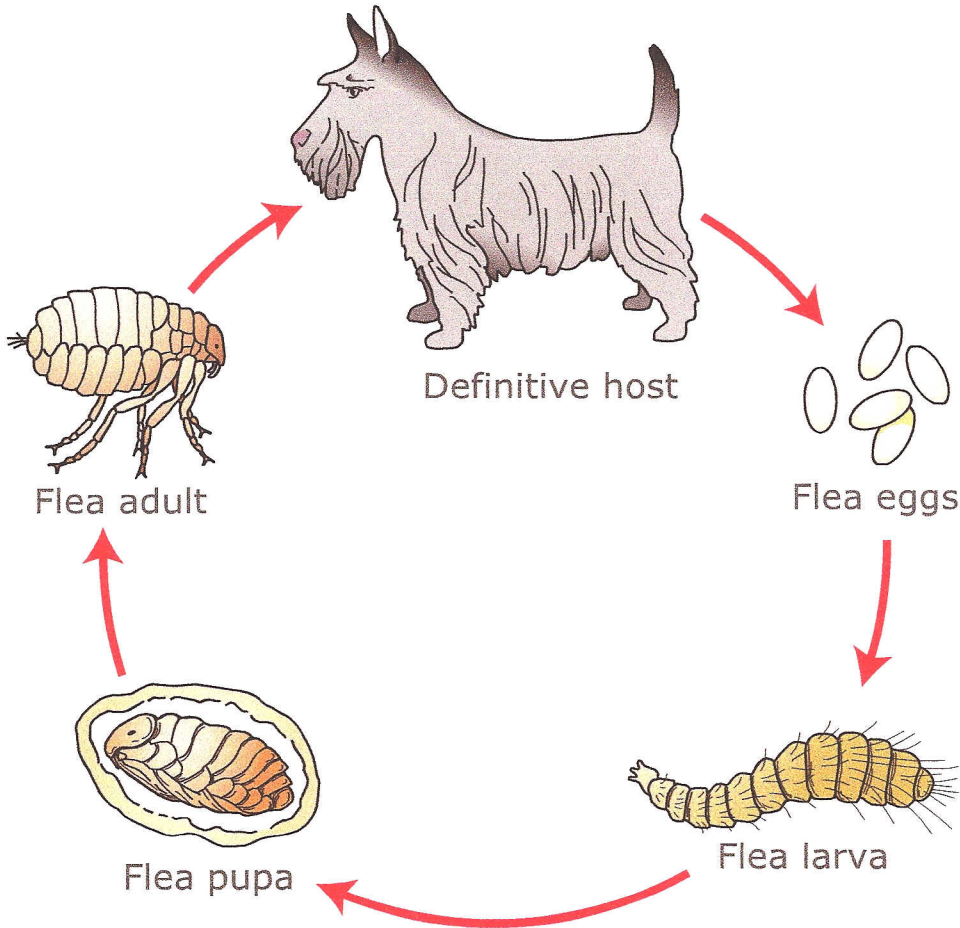


Flea Life Cycle - Dog: Life cycle of the flea.



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Any species of flea is capable of infesting dogs or cats. The flea cycle has 4 stages. Adult: females can only lay eggs after eating blood. After laying, a shell protects the flea egg until it hatches into a larva. Larvae feed on organic debris until they mature into pupae. The pupa protects the pre-adult flea for up to 9 months, until the flea is stimulated to emerge by the correct environmental conditions. This is important since adults can only live a few days without food. Fleas that are nourished by blood can live for 3 weeks, continually reproducing during this time. The entire life cycle can be completed in as little as 2 weeks or can take the better part of a year, depending on climate. Most of the cycle is spent off the animal. Environmental flea control products cannot penetrate flea eggs or pupal cases. There are hormone-like chemicals that can indirectly affect these stages by inhibiting growth. Further information about the flea life cycle and flea control can be found in our Client Education Handout