

# Flea in your ear

Fleas

Pest Control Services



Unbugged<sup>®</sup>



# Fleas

## Characteristics

Fleas are parasitic insects and there are many different species.

The human flea is very rare in the UK due to improved hygiene and standards of living. Surveys have shown that most fleas found in our homes are cat fleas.

Fleas are visible to the naked eye and are reddish in colour. They are instantly recognisable by their extremely long hind legs and flattened shape. This allows them to move quickly through hairs.

## Where to find fleas

Most eggs are introduced into our homes from pets. They fall off the pet and hatch wherever they are in the house, usually where the pet sleeps. Only a small number of the flea population in a house will be on the animal at a given time.

Flea eggs can lay dormant for long periods of time but will be stimulated by vibration and heat. When this happens an adult flea will emerge and seek food. This is why people can experience flea bites when they move in to a property that has been vacant for some time.

## Problems caused by fleas

- Flea bites – these will show as a swollen itchy spot with a single puncture point at the centre. They are usually found where clothes are in close contact with the body and invariably attack the lower legs e.g. ankles. Bites often appear in clusters or lines and can remain itchy and inflamed for up to several weeks, sometimes resulting in secondary infection.
- Pets – dogs and cats can scratch themselves sore and this may result in secondary infection.
- Infestations can spread quickly as a female can lay up to 50 eggs a day.

## Life Cycle

Eggs are laid amongst the fur of the host and usually drop onto the floor or among bedding, where they hatch in a few days. The cycle from egg – larva – pupa – adult takes several weeks.





## Control

To prevent an infestation:-

- Ensure pets are regularly treated for fleas.
- Vacuum living areas including furniture on a regular basis
- Wash animal bedding in a hot wash regularly

Before we carry out a treatment:-

- Treatments using rodenticides and trapping
- Proofing works to prevent rats entering your premises
- Drain camera surveys to identify defects associated with rat infestations

After we carry out a treatment:-

- Do not vacuum for 10 days or more if possible. This will allow the insecticide to continue working on any hatching eggs or remaining fleas.

## Cable Bug

There is a phenomenon that can occur in office situations where staff claim to have been bitten at work, but no evidence of pests can be found. Staff complain of bites on their legs and are able to show red marks similar in appearance to insect bites.

This usually occurs in open plan offices with synthetic carpets, a large amount of electrical equipment and often a dry atmosphere. The most common reason is the buildup and consequent discharge of static electricity.

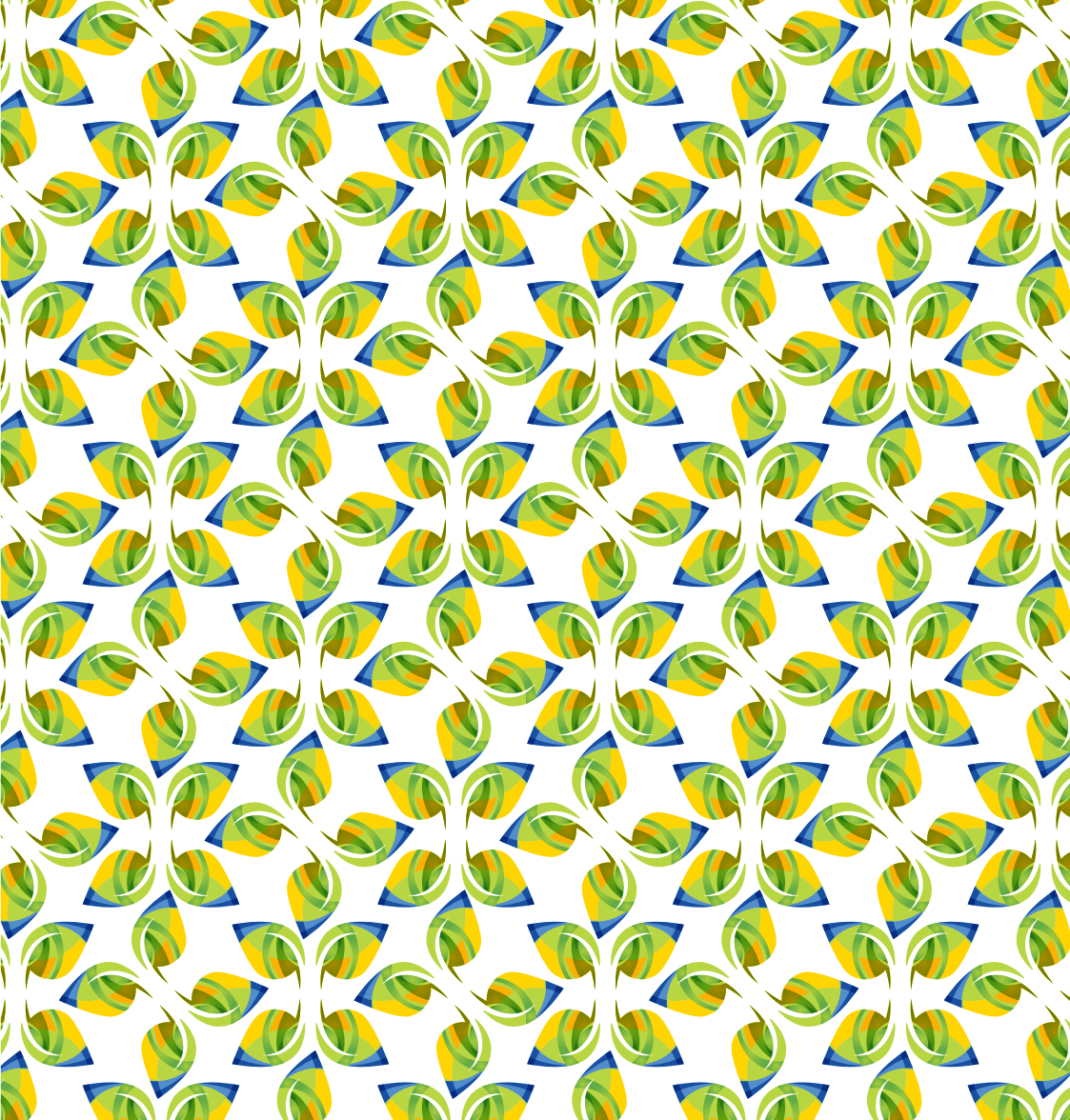
Control can be achieved by the use of anti-static mats or sprays and also raising humidity levels. Contact us to arrange an anti-static spray.

**Please contact us for further information  
on treatments and current charges**

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