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A QUIRKY, INTERACTIVE VETERINARY WEBSITE FOR CATS AND DOGS

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Get Smart with Our Chart: A Comparison of Flea, Tick, and Heartworm Products




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Feline Products





Product & Manufacturer	Preventive vs. Kills Only, Mode & Frequency of Administration	Active Ingredient(s) (alphabetical order)	Heartworm?	Fleas? (adult, larva, pupa, egg?)	Ticks?	Intestinal Worms?	Other Parasites?	Additional Features & Comments
Activyl® Spot-On for cats and kittens  Merck	Preventive Topical Monthly	Indoxacarb	No	Yes – adult fleas and larva	No	No	No	Starts killing fleas in 8 hours
Advantage®-II for cats  Bayer	Preventive Topical Monthly	Imidacloprid Pyriproxyfen	No	Yes – all life stages	No	No	Lice	Kills fleas in 12 hours, they don't have to bite; may be toxic to bees
Advantage Multi® for cats  Bayer	Preventive Topical Monthly	Imidacloprid Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - Roundworm Hookworm	Ear mites	Also FDA-approved to prevent fleas and heartworms in ferrets



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Assurity™ for cats  Elanco	Preventive Topical Monthly	Spinetoram	No	Yes – adult fleas	No	No	No	
Bravecto® Topical Solution  Merck	Preventive Topical 3 months* *(only effective for 2 months against Amblyomma ticks, which can transmit Cytauxzoonosis)	Fluralaner	No	Yes	Yes* – Dermacentor Ixodes Rhipicephalus Amblyomma*	No	May be used off-label to treat demodectic mange mites	Kills 98-100% of fleas/ticks in 12 hours; does not repel insects; may cause vomiting; safe for pregnant and nursing cats; not for younger kittens
Capstar®  (Novartis) Elanco	Kills only Oral	Nitenpyram	No	Yes	No	No	No	Starts working in 30 minutes, kills fleas in 2 hours; cats may scratch more temporarily after use as fleas bite more when dying off

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Catego® for cats  Ceva	Preventive Topical Monthly	Dinotefuran Fipronil Pyriproxyfen	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Kills fleas in 6 hours, they don't have to bite; small volume dose; toxic to rabbits
Cheristin® for cats  Elanco	Preventive Topical Monthly	Spinetoram	No	Yes	No	No	No	Kills fleas in 12 hours, starts working in 30 minutes; small volume dose
Comfortis®  Elanco	Preventive Oral (with food) Monthly	Spinosad	No	Yes	No	No	No	Starts killing fleas in 30 minutes; poor taste, may cause vomiting; do not use on pregnant or nursing cats
EasySpot® for cats  Elanco	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil	No	Yes – adult fleas only	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Toxic to rabbits



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EFFIPRO® Topical Solution for cats  Virbac	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil	No	Yes – adult fleas only	Yes	No	Chewing lice Mosquitoes	Toxic to rabbits
EFFIPRO Plus™ Topical Solution for cats  Virbac	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil Pyriproxyfen	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	Chewing lice Mosquitoes	Toxic to rabbits
<p><i>A note on Frontline® topical products: Overall, these products are very safe for cats when used appropriately. However, with decades of use, studies have shown <u>decreased efficacy</u> in some formulations. Kills ticks slowly (within 24-48 hours) compared to other products, perhaps allowing various tick-borne infections to occur. Kills fleas in 8-24 hours.</i></p>								
Frontline® Gold for cats  Merial	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil Pyriproxyfen (S)-methoprene	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Prevents flea re-infestation; toxic to rabbits

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Frontline® HomeGard  Merial	Kills only Household spray (do not apply on your pet)	Permethrin (S)-methoprene	No	Yes – kills adult fleas on contact and disrupts the development of eggs and larva	No	No	No	Use other flea product on pet at least 3 months; during use, animals should not be in the room, humans should leave the room for 30 minutes (until dried); toxic to cats when aerosol or wet (cats should avoid contact until product is dried)
Frontline® Plus for cats  Merial	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil (S)-methoprene	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Toxic to rabbits
Frontline® Spot On Cat  Merial	Preventive Topical Monthly	Fipronil	No	Yes – adult fleas only	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Toxic to rabbits; can use on pregnant or nursing cats

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Frontline® Spray  Merial	Preventive Topical spray Monthly* *(only effective against Ixodes paralysis ticks for 3 weeks)	Fipronil	No	Yes – adult fleas only	Yes – Dermacentor Ixodes* Rhipicephalus Amblyomma	No	Chewing lice Controls sarcoptic mange mites	Can also be used on dogs; toxic to rabbits
Frontline® Tritak® for cats  Merial	Preventive Topical Monthly	Etofenprox Fipronil (S)-methoprene	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	Chewing lice	Starts killing fleas and ticks in 15 minutes; toxic to rabbits
Heartgard®  Merial	Preventive Oral Monthly	Ivermectin	Yes	No	No	Yes – Hookworm	No	
Interceptor®  Elanco	Preventive Oral Monthly	Milbemycin oxime	Yes	No	No	Yes – Roundworm Hookworm* *(effective against Ancylostoma caninum hookworm only)	No	

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Knockout™ Brand Products 3 options: 1) E.S. Area Treatment 2) Room and Area Fogger 3) Area Treatment  Virbac	Kills only Household spray (do not apply on your pet)	<i>E.S. Area Treatment;</i> <i>Room and Area Fogger:</i> N-octyl bicycloheptene dicarboximide Permethrin Pyrethrins Pyriproxyfen <i>Area Treatment:</i> Phenothrin Pyriproxyfen Tetramethrin	No	Yes – all life stages	Yes	No	No	Use other flea product on pet at least 3 months; during use, animals should not be in the room, humans should leave the room for 30 minutes (until dried); toxic to cats when aerosol or wet (cats should avoid contact until product is dried)
Milbemax®  Elanco	Preventive Oral Monthly for heartworm prevention*; every 3 months for intestinal worm control only	Milbemycin oxime Praziquantel	Yes *(when used monthly)	No	No	Yes – Roundworm Hookworm Tapeworm	No	

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 Bayer	Kills only Topical spray	Isopropyl myristate	No	No	Yes	No	No	Can also be used on dogs
 Zoetis	Preventive Topical Monthly	Selamectin	Yes	Yes – kills adult fleas only, also prevents flea eggs from hatching	Yes* – <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> (American dog tick) only	Yes – Roundworm Hookworm	Lice Ear mites Sarcoptic mange mites	Stronghold® in some countries
 Bayer	Preventive Collar 8 months* *(only effective for 5 months if pet swims or bathes more than once per month)	Flumethrin Imidacloprid	No	Yes	Yes – Dermacentor Ixodes Rhipicephalus Amblyomma	No	Chewing lice* (for 1 month only)	Repels fleas/ticks; kills fleas in 24 hours, ticks in 48 hours; may cause hair loss and skin redness at collar; may be toxic to bees
 (Pfizer) Zoetis	Preventive Topical Monthly	Selamectin	Yes	Yes – kills adult fleas only, also prevents flea eggs from hatching	Yes* – <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> (American dog tick) only	Yes – Roundworm Hookworm	Chewing lice Ear mites Sarcoptic mange mites	Revolution® in some countries

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Stronghold® Plus  Zoetis	Preventive Topical Monthly	Sarolaner Selamectin	Yes	Yes – all life stages	Yes – Dermacentor Ixodes Rhipicephalus Amblyomma	Yes – Roundworm Hookworm	Chewing lice Ear mites	
Vectra® for cats and kittens  Ceva	Preventive Topical Monthly	Dinotefuran Pyriproxyfen	No	Yes – all life stages	No	No	No	Kills fleas in 6 hours, they do not have to bite