

You can keep your pet healthy and still help wildlife thrive:

- ✓ Talk to your vet about alternatives to spot-ons, such as oral medications.
- ✓ Reduce frequency of treatments.
- ✓ Ask your vet whether your pet is at high-risk of getting fleas & ticks.
- ✓ Check for fleas & ticks, rather than use preventive treatments.
- ✓ Vacuum regularly.
- ✓ Frequently wash pet bedding, toys, and soft furnishings used by your pet, in hot water.

If you do use spot-on treatments on your pet...

Only treat your pet for the period they have parasites.

Do not allow your dog to swim in rivers and ponds.

Wear gloves when applying spot-on treatment. Place pipettes in the general waste or ideally return to your vet for disposal.

Groom your pet indoors and dispose of fur in general waste. Fur containing pesticides has been found in bird nests.

Avoid washing your pet while using spot-on treatments.

Always bag & bin dog poo. Do not flush pet poo down the loo.

Return any unused products to your vet for appropriate disposal.



Some things to consider:

Should we treat our pets for fleas and ticks if they don't currently have any?

Do we need to treat our pets for parasites all year round? Spring to Autumn is the highest risk period for fleas and ticks.

Your vet can tailor treatment to suit your pet. Not every pet needs regular treatment, some do but many don't. Regular treatment may be required for worms in young puppies and kittens.



Scan the QR code to learn more about:

- The risk of common flea & tick treatments to the environment.
- How to find out if your pet is at high-risk.
- How to take a risk-based approach to treating fleas & ticks.

Did you know your pet's flea & tick treatment could be harming wildlife?



Spot-on treatments contain strong pesticides that are getting into our waterways and putting wildlife at risk.



Western
Sussex
Rivers Trust



eco rother action

Acknowledgements:

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The active ingredients of common pet flea & tick treatments have been found in high concentrations in UK rivers, streams, and ponds.

What is in pet flea & tick treatments?

Two common ingredients are fipronil and imidacloprid. These pesticides are banned for outdoor agricultural use in Europe, including the UK, due to their impact on bees and other pollinating insects.

One dose of flea treatment containing imidacloprid, for a medium sized dog, can contain enough pesticide to kill 25 million bees.

What impact do they have on freshwater wildlife?

Fipronil and imidacloprid can harm invertebrates such as dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies, freshwater shrimp, and water beetles. They can kill them on contact or reduce their ability to feed, grow, develop, and reproduce.

Some treatments contain different ingredients and their impact on the environment is currently not well understood, however they could still be harmful to our rivers and wildlife.

How are spot-on treatments spread?

Once applied to your pet, spot-on treatments spread on your pet's skin and are released via their skin and fur. The pesticides can enter the household environment, get onto your hands and clothing when you stroke them, and can be washed off by swimming or bathing.

This is how pet flea & tick treatments can get into our rivers:

Even 28 days after application, some of the pesticide will be washed off into the water.

If your pet is treated every month then the risk is always there. Every time you wash your hands after petting them, and every time your dog takes a dip in a river or pond.

