



GREATER TARRANT COUNTY PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

July 2010

Message from the President

Everybody seeing the return of fleas? After several seasons of very few fleas they have come back in droves. Good for our business, bad for pets and homeowners. See an article from Dr. Mike Merchant later in this newsletter for more information on fleas.

Hope to see you Thursday when Paul Strickland with BASF will bring us some updated information on treatments for ants. Been seeing lots of those this year too.

See you Thursday at the meeting.

Charles Lewis
President 2010



Visit our website –
<http://www.gtcpca.org>

*Be sure to check your
company information on
our updated website!!*

2010 Officers

President	Charles Lewis	817.361.9868	All Dead Pest Control clewis@alldeadpestcontrol.com
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TPCA Dir.	Bobby Bartlett	817.919.5179	Able Pest Control carlabartlett@gmail.com
TPCA Dir.	Ed Doyle	817.834.3121	Western Exterminating eants@live.com

**Greater Tarrant County
Pest Control Association
Monthly Meeting**



Texas Termitell!!

When: Thurs., July 15, 2010
Where: Rolling Hills Country Club
401 Lamar Blvd. East
Arlington, Texas 76011
(MAPSCO 68Z)
Phone: 817-861-9660
www.rollinghills.cc
(Click on "Useful Info")
Time: Social -- 6:30 pm
Dinner -- 7:00 pm
Program -- 7:30 pm
Cost: \$18.00 per person
Speaker: Paul Strickland
BASF

THANKS to our June Speaker

**Israel Garza
B&G**

Paul will be presenting information on ants.

RSVP by Tuesday, July 13

Nancy Doyle - 817.834.3121
Or by email to nancy@westernext.com



PLEASE REMEMBER:

If you make a dinner reservation and cannot attend the meeting, you will be billed for the cost of the meal, because your association is charged for your reservation.

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE GREATER TARRANT COUNTY
PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

June 24, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the President, Charles Lewis.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

No Treasurer's report was available.

Bobby Bartlett and Ed Doyle reported on the Director's meeting in June. One of the goals for this year is to increase our membership statewide. Each Chapter is being asked to donate items for the PestPAC fundraiser which takes place in September.

Prizes were provided by **B&G** and **Univar** and were won by Jeff Newsom, Charles Lewis, Bobby Bartlett and Vernell Stewart. The cash prize was won by Jeff Newsom.

Email us photos of your cute kids or grandkids and we'll include one or two in each future newsletter.

UPCOMING GTPCA EVENTS

July 15 GTCPCA Monthly Meeting
August 19 GTCPCA Monthly Meeting



Visit our website – <http://www.gtcpca.org>

**CHECK OUT
OUR ONGOING REVAMP!**



MEALS ON WHEELS

GTCPCA members have been helping the Meals on Wheels since 2005. We receive just a few calls each year, for our pest management professionals to volunteer pest control services for shut-ins. Thank you to all who have helped in the past, your contributions are appreciated.

Please contact nancy@westernext.com if you are willing to be added as a volunteer to assist in this program or if you would like more information. Your time and expertise is needed and makes a real difference in our community.

Thank you,

Nancy Doyle
817-834-3121

DON'T FORGET!!!

Our distributor allied members, B&G, Univar, Estes and John Deere Landscapes, have upcoming training opportunities.

Contact your local representative for more details.

B&G

Israel Garza, Regional Sales Manager
817-457-6160



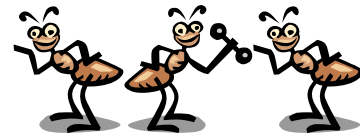
UNIVAR USA

Greg Miller
972-647-0091



Martyn Hafley
Pest Control Sales Manager
214-905-3887

David Willey
Sales Representative
214-558-9082



Jim Adams
817-284-8994

Bill Jones
817-557-9732

OTHER ASSOCIATION WEB SITES

TPCA www.texaspest.org

NPMA www.npmapestworld.org

SPCS **NEW LINK BELOW**

http://www.agr.state.tx.us/agr/program_render/0,1987,1848_17542_0_0,00.html?channelId=17542

CHECK OUT –

www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu

This new redesigned website for the Extension Service has many opportunities for training

RESOURCES FROM DR. MIKE MERCHANT

<http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu>

New mosquito website

<http://insectsinthecity.blogspot.com/>

Dr. Mike Merchant's blog.

[http://www.entsoc.org/certification/ace/index.
htm](http://www.entsoc.org/certification/ace/index.htm)

ACE Certification information

<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/>

Insects in the City, general information on insect control

Safer Flea Control



Cat fleas infest a variety of furred animals including cats and dogs.

New products are making flea control easier and safer than ever. However, to be most effective, a careful plan of attack should include rigorous sanitation, pet treatment, premise treatment and follow-up.

Identification

Fleas are easy to identify. Look for small (1/8 inch-long), wingless insects in the fur of dogs and cats. Adult fleas are brown to black in color, with strong jumping legs. Adult cat fleas feed on dogs, cats, and a variety of furred animals. People may be bitten by fleas, especially when populations are high, but fleas will not live and reproduce on humans.

Control

Flea control is best achieved through a four step process. Good sanitation, pet treatment, premise treatment and follow-up are all critical to good flea control.

Sanitation. Frequent vacuuming and disrupting of flea breeding sites can help greatly in indoor flea control. Fleas lay eggs while on the pet. Eggs then drop off the animal into carpet, bedding, furniture, or onto the floor. After a few days the eggs hatch into very small, legless larvae. Partly digested blood that flakes continuously from a flea-infested pet is the main food source for larvae. Thorough vacuuming with a good, beater-type vacuum can remove 15-30% of larvae and 30-60% of flea eggs from carpeting. In addition, vacuuming helps remove some of the flea larva's food supply and straightens carpeting fibers, enhancing penetration of the carpet by insecticide sprays.

When vacuuming pay special attention to areas where the pet spends a lot of time. These are the sites most likely to harbor eggs, larvae, and the dried blood that larvae need. Don't neglect to vacuum under furniture, cushions, chairs, beds, and along the edges of walls—favorite flea breeding sites. Be sure to discard your vacuum cleaner bag at least once a week when battling a flea problem. Fleas can continue to develop inside a vacuum cleaner bag and can reinfest the house.

Pet Treatment. Your pet's first defense against fleas should include a flea comb and a good bath. Soap in a pet bath acts as a gentle insecticide and will help control lighter flea infestations. Use of a flea comb, though time consuming, can also help reduce the need for insecticides. Flea combs are fine-toothed combs designed to help remove adult fleas from the pet's fur. Most dogs and cats seem to enjoy combing. When combing pay special attention to the face and neck regions, and the

area in front of the tail. Dip the comb frequently in soapy water or an alcohol solution to kill any fleas removed from the pet.

Heavier, or chronic, infestations are best treated by a veterinarian. Your veterinarian knows what can be safely used on your pet, and can supply you with materials for home treatment. Several new products are available that provide effective and relatively safe treatments for most pets. These products are available both through veterinarians and over-the-counter.

Insect growth regulators, or IGRs, are among the safest flea treatments. Growth regulators work by disrupting the normal development of flea eggs and larvae. Because IGRs mimic insect hormones (chemicals made by the insect itself, which appear to have no effect on people or pets) they are among the safest products on the market for flea control.

Currently, IGRs can be applied to the pet via sprays, pills or food additives that are given to the pet on a regular basis, usually once a month. One such product is Program®. The active ingredient in Program® is lufenuron. Lufenuron can be administered as a pill (for dogs), food additive (for cats), or injection (for cats). A new formulation, called Sentinel®, is also available through veterinarians. Sentinel® contains lufenuron plus a heartworm preventative. These products have proven effective, particularly on pets that live mostly indoors. Such products may be more expensive, however, than homeowner-applied treatments.

Methoprene is an IGR that is available through most pet stores as a spray for on-animal use. Methoprene is sold under several trade names including Precor® and vIGRen®. Methoprene is available as a dip, pump spray, and most recently as a flea collar for both dogs and cats. Look for these products at stores that carry Starbar, Zodiac and Hartz-Mountain product lines. Methoprene-based animal treatments can also be purchased through veterinarians under the Vet-Kem product line.

Adult fleas exposed to IGRs become sterile and unable to produce offspring. Larvae exposed to IGR sprays die before they can complete development. Because most IGRs only affect the egg and larval stage, however, they do not reduce adult flea populations quickly. For this reason, they are usually mixed with a mild insecticide to kill the adult fleas. Allow 4-6 weeks to see significant reductions of flea numbers when using flea pills or other IGR treatments alone.

Two other low toxicity, on-animal treatments that provide effective control include imidacloprid (Advantage™) and fipronyl (Frontline™). Both products act as nervous system poisons to kill adult fleas, but because of their inherently lower toxicity for mammals, pose little risk to pets or people. Advantage® and Frontline® provide 1 and 3 month protection from fleas, respectively. In addition, Frontline® also kills ticks for up to one month after application. Both Advantage® and Frontline® are available only through veterinarians.

Plant-derived, or botanical, insecticides kill adult and larval fleas and are relatively low in toxicity. Many are commonly sold over-the-counter. Botanical insecticides include pyrethrum (or pyrethrins) and the citrus oil extracts: limonene and linalool. Once applied, these products break down in a relatively short time, leaving the pet with no residual protection against new fleas. Like all insecticides, these products should be used with care. When used properly they should pose little hazard to the pet or the applicator; however be aware that some cats may display sensitivity to these types of insecticides, especially the citrus oil products.

Garlic, Brewer's yeast, cedar bedding and various herbal sachets are frequently promoted for flea control; however little scientific evidence exists to support such claims. Volatile oils in fresh cedar chips do have some insecticidal action against fleas, however the effective life of such chips is probably short. Brewer's yeast has been tested and has not been shown to provide any protection to pets from fleas.

Premise treatments. While on-animal IGR treatments may reduce the need to treat your home, premise treatments applied to indoor or outdoor flea breeding sites still are usually necessary. Premise treatments should always be made at the same time as when the pet is treated. This is particularly important if pets have been treated with products that last only a short time.

Several good, low-toxicity treatments are available for indoor use. Citrus oil-based sprays containing limonene or linalool can be applied to rugs, carpeting, and pet bedding. These products act as contact poisons, killing only what they hit. After application they evaporate quickly, leaving a pleasant citrus smell, but little residual protection against emerging fleas. Follow-up treatments are usually necessary when using these and other botanical sprays, like pyrethrum.

Boron-based products, such as disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, are also available for flea control on indoor carpeting. Chemically similar to boric acid, these chemicals have little skin (dermal) toxicity to people or pets. When ingested by larvae scavenging for food in carpets, borates kill immature fleas. Because adult fleas feed on fresh blood only, boron insecticides do not control this life stage. Dustiness, abrasion to carpets, and contamination of furniture or food preparation surfaces are potential concerns with carpet-applied dusts. Shampoo-based boron formulations, applied wet to the carpet, should help minimize such problems.

Insect growth regulators that can be used for premise treatment include methoprene and pyriproxifen. Because it breaks down quickly when exposed to direct sunlight, methoprene is primarily used as an indoor spray. Pyriproxifen sprays are more stable outdoors and are available through pest control operators under the name Archer® or Nylar®.

Pyriproxifen is unique in that it controls both immature and adult fleas. It can be applied both indoors and outdoors. This insecticide currently is available only through professional pest control companies.

Diatomaceous earth, sometimes promoted as a safe outdoor flea control, is unlikely to provide practical or satisfactory flea control based on laboratory evaluations at Texas AgriLife Extension. Applying diatomaceous earth as a light dust or as a suspension in water to yards gives no effective control.

Outdoor flea control can be enhanced by applying pesticides only where flea larvae are most likely to live. You should focus your treatments on bedding areas, sites under decks and shrubbery, and wherever pets spend a lot of time. Well maintained lawns in sunny sites are unlikely to harbor many fleas.

Follow-up. Follow-up is especially important for flea control. The flea pupa is the intermediate life form between larval and adult life stages. The pupal stage normally lasts 7-14 days, but can persist for much longer under certain conditions. The pupa is normally well-protected from the effects of pesticide sprays and is very difficult to kill with insecticides. Fleas that are in the pupal stage when insecticides are applied, frequently survive treatment to emerge several days later. Hence follow-up treatments are usually needed. Two or more follow-up treatments with pyrethrum or a citrus oil-based spray (or a standard

insecticide, if you wish) should be applied 5-10 days after the first application.

Don't wait until fleas get out of hand to begin your flea control program. Start a frequent and thorough sanitation program, regularly inspect your pet for fleas, and carefully follow the label directions of whichever product you choose.

For more information

For more information on fleas and their control, request publication [E-433, Flea Control](#). This publications, and help with additional questions about fleas or other pests, can be obtained by contacting your county Extension office.

Author

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Check out more information from Texas AgriLife Extension Service at

<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/>



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Proud to Support the
Greater Tarrant County Pest Control Association

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*"We're more than just a
Distributor"*

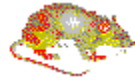
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