

FAST FACTS

- Fleas can live for about 100 days.
- A pair of fleas can produce 400-500 offspring in their lifetime.
- Fleas don't fly. They jump from one place to another.

General Information

A flea can jump up to 8 inches high. That's 150 times it's own height. If you could do this, you'd be able to leap over even tall skyscrapers.

Size	1/12 to 1/6"	Common Name	Flea
Shape	Flat	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Dark reddish-brown	Phylum	Arthropoda
Legs	6	Class	Insecta
Wings	No	Order	Siphonaptera
Antenna	Yes	Family	Pulicidae
		Genus Species	Ctenocephalides fellis

Diet

Fleas are **parasites** that feed on blood.

Habitat

Fleas can live on any warm-blooded animal, but seem to prefer to live on humans, cats, dogs, opossums, rats and other rodents. They can also be found on shoes, pant legs, or blankets

Impact

Fleas are best known for spreading the Bubonic Plague. They also transmit the bacterial disease **murine typhus** to humans through infected rats. Their saliva causes **allergic reactions** in pets and humans. Fleas can also transfer tapeworms and cause **anemia** in pets. Flea bites cause painful, itchy red bumps.

Prevention

*Clean and vacuum frequently.

*Keep your yard clean of garbage and pet droppings.

*Protect pets by keeping them on a leash when outside, give them lots of baths, give them monthly flea and tick treatments and take them to the vet at least once a year to make sure they haven't been **infested**.

*If you think you have fleas in your home and property, call a pest management professional!

To learn more about this and other pests, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/research.html>