

Our focus at Atrium Animal Hospital and Wellness Center is to promote optimum health in every way for our furry friends. We provide preventions and treatments with the least amount of side effects and maximum health benefits. This requires constant attention to the balance of risk versus potential risk which we take seriously and invest the time and attention required.

In general, we prefer not to use any topical or oral pesticides if it can be avoided. There are situations, however where there may be a high population of fleas and/or ticks and increased potential for bites. It is best to choose a product that can be used on an as needed basis or one that does not last longer in the body than is needed. We encourage clients to discuss this with their Veterinarian so they can choose one based on your furry animal's overall health condition.

Over the last few months, there have been increasing reports, including an FDA Pet Owner and Veterinarian Alert regarding potential for neurologic adverse events associated with certain Flea and Tick products. Of the products mentioned, the only one we had in our clinic and online pharmacy is Nexgard. We have elected to take it off our clinic shelves and off our online pharmacy. In addition, we will not script it out to other pharmacies based on the data provided us.

To assist all our clients. We have a list of products we recommend if you have flea and/or tick concerns. Below are the products we can safely recommend:

**Vetri Repel** – wipes or spray for **cats and dogs**. Apply topically once per day for **repelling** fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, flies and chiggers when going hiking or outdoors.

**Revolution** – topical once a month for **dogs and cats** to kill fleas and certain type of tick, heartworm prevention and anthelmintic.

**Seresto Collar** – topical pesticide for **dogs and cats** to kill fleas and ticks and is spread over entire animal transdermally and via blood stream. It is good for 8 months. The collar can be taken on and off as needed for several days before or after flea/tick potential.

**Advantage II** – topical once a month for **dogs and cats** to kill fleas.

**K9 Advantix** – topical once a month for **dogs only** to kill fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, chewing lice and biting flies. It repels these parasites so they do not have to bite the dog to be killed and therefore do not transmit disease.

**Advantage Multi** – topical once a month for **dogs and cats** to prevent heartworm disease and kills fleas and intestinal parasites. Also effective for ear mite infections in cats.

**Capstar** – oral application for **dogs and cats**. Works for 24 hours, kills fleas in under an hour.

Ideally an animal on a good diet, in an ideal home environment, with healthy body, skin and coat will have minimal risk of parasite issues due to pH balance of skin, body temp and lack of inflammation.

You can spray 50/50 organic Mother Apple Cider Vinegar and water on your pet's coat to keep the pH balance optimal to reduce their attractiveness to insects.

Always, our focus at Atrium Animal Hospital is to “do no harm”. Please ask us any questions you may have.

