

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Dog Flea

Scientific Name: *Ctenocephalides canis*

Order and Family: Siphonaptera: Pulicidae

Size and Appearance: Adult dog fleas are 2.5 mm in length with flattened, wingless, brown bodies. When the flea has taken a blood meal, abdomen will be bright red. They have compound eyes and spines visible on all 6 legs. Larvae are white, slender, and have no eyes or legs. The head of the adult is more round than the cat fleas, and this is usually the easiest way to tell the two apart.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm	Eggs are oval and white in color. Females lay eggs continuously while on host, with eggs occasionally dropping to other surfaces.
Larva/Nymph	< 0.5-3 mm depending on instar	White, slender, with no eyes or legs. 3 larval instars.
Adult	2.5 mm	Flattened, wingless, brown bodies. Compound eyes and spines on tibia.
Pupa (if applicable)	2.0 mm	Made of spun silk and is rendered immobile.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking

Host /stored food products: *Ctenocephalides canis* feed on the blood of mammalian hosts, primarily cats and dogs. Occasionally found on rats, opossums, and foxes.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Dog fleas serve as intermediate hosts for dog and rodent tapeworms. Dogs are highly susceptible as they groom themselves frequently and tapeworms are passed through ingesting the flea. Animals can also develop allergic reactions from the saliva of the flea, which is indicated by loss of hair in patches.

References:

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