



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER

## CATS AND BED BUGS

Have you recently spotted bed bugs in your home? During the summer months, at the height of travel season, these unwelcome, crawling pests can hitch a ride to your house in luggage or on your clothing.

While it is possible for your kitty to spread bed bugs once they're in your home, it's not terribly common. Bed bugs do not live on their host—they are crawlers, and they much prefer human company to that of cats or dogs.

So in general, you don't need to worry about bed bugs setting up a permanent residence in your kitty's fur and breeding there. They most typically live in a place that provides easy access to their preferred host (you). This most often means they live in your mattress, box springs, and bedding.

To rid your home of bed bugs, you'll need to do a deep cleaning which includes bedding, clothing, mattresses, box springs, and more. (You may need to hire a specialist experienced in eradication of bed bugs.)

The specialist may recommend spraying your home with pesticides. Most bed bug treatments are extremely toxic to pets, and can cause serious illness or even death, so please be sure to speak with us before proceeding. Ask the pest control company for a complete list of all products being used so we can review it with you and help plan to keep your pets safe. It may be necessary for your kitty to board with us, or stay with a friend or family member, while your home is being treated.

Although bed bugs prefer human hosts to cats or dogs, this doesn't mean they won't

bite your pet given the chance. So if you've found signs of bed bugs in your home, and notice your kitty scratching or itching, please bring him or her in for a checkup.

The veterinarian will first perform a thorough exam to check for bed bugs. If found, a course of treatment will be recommended based on your kitty's health. Treatment may include a bath with a shampoo containing Pyrethrin, oral parasite treatments (such as Capstar and HEARTGARD), or topical parasite treatments (such as Frontline).

Never bathe your kitty at home with shampoo containing Pyrethrin or pyrethroids unless you have spoken with us beforehand. And never use a product on your kitty that's labeled for a dog, as cats have much lower tolerance to Pyrethrin than dogs do. Pyrethrin poisoning can quickly be fatal.

After treatment at the Sacramento Cat Hospital, we will either throw away your kitty carrier and bedding or treat it with Siphatrol spray (a water-based insecticide), then bag up for you to take home. We'll send your kitty home in a new bug-free box



carrier. At home, you may opt to toss your kitty's bedding to help guard against reinfestation.

If you've seen any signs of bed bugs, or would like more information about safe treatment options, please give us a call.

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## FELINE PARASITE PREVENTION

Along with warmer weather typically comes an increase in parasite population. Feline parasites are divided into two broad categories: those that live outside the body (such as fleas, mites, lice, and ticks), and those that live inside the body (such as roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, heartworms, and ringworms).

Parasites are not only annoying to you and your cat, they can also spread disease and, if left untreated, may lead to serious medical problems.

There are a number of easy-to-administer monthly topical medications to help prevent feline parasites. During your next visit to the Sacramento Cat Hospital, please ask us for more information.

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## AUGUST SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

During the month of August, **buy any one parasite control product and receive \$5 off! Buy any two, and receive \$10 off!** (Parasite control products include Drontal, Advantage, Advantage Multi, Frontline, Revolution, HEARTGARD, and Siphatrol area treatment.) Please ask us for more information.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to [www.sacramentocathospital.com](http://www.sacramentocathospital.com), or speak with one of our team members.

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