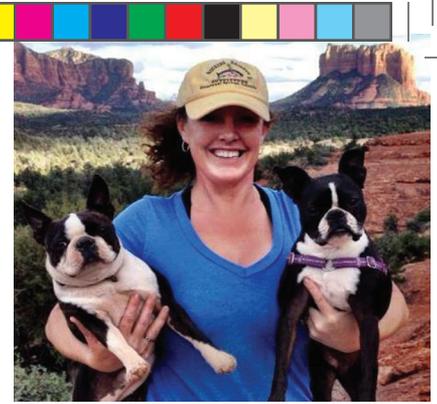


4paws ON THE ROAD

Traveling and Camping with Companion Animals

By Jenn Gehr



Q: Jenn, Have you discovered any holistic, topical flea solution or remedy that actually works? I loathe applying hazardous chemicals on my dogs and cats, we have 2 of each, and am looking for an at-home solution that is both safe and effective.

Thank you,

Brad and Sheila Hastings
Ocala, FL

A: Your question is one that I have been looking into for well over two years. Finding a natural product that repels both fleas and ticks for humans and animals is harder than one would think, as those pesky little critters are difficult to ward off! I would imagine if there were one “wonder concoction” it would already be to market and flying off the shelves. Alas, we are forced into the herbal kitchen of discovery and all I can say is, “thank goodness for the Internet.” Here is what I have found that works pretty well on both cats and dogs, alike. I urge you to read the entire article and seek to learn more about human grade diatomaceous earth and its many uses. (I love it for its ability to safely create an ant and spider proof barrier around the tires, jacks, water hoses and electrical cords of our RV!) Remember that the following remedy needs to be tested on the back legs (apply a quarter sized amount in one area and wait for 12 hours to see if a rash occurs) of the pet before using on the entire body to be sure there are no allergic reactions. Be sure to avoid placement on the delicate

areas around the eyes, nose and mouth. See www.healthy-holistic-living.com and join the Facebook page for more awesome tips at Mother Earth Living. This homemade flea powder recipe is holistic vet recommended! All ingredients and complete description of each organic add in may be found via the web link.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth
- ½ cup Neem Powder
- ½ cup Yarrow Powder
- 20 drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil (leave this out if you plan to use it on your cat)

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together in a shaker top container. The author suggested using a mason jar and drilling holes in the lid. After allergy testing the day prior, apply on your pets skin from head to tail when their skin and hair are dry. Work in the powder so it reaches the skin. Hand rub in the powder on the belly and legs, and avoid contact with the face.

For more specifics on application and how often to use, go to the web link previously mentioned. My sensitive Boston Terriers had zero reaction to this holistic flea and tick treatment and the Neem Powder really helped their skin from becoming dried out from the Diatom Flour. This is great find I'm excited to share with our readers!

Q: Thanks for your helpful tips each month. I am considering giving the Lepto vaccine to our 4-year-old GSP, Scooter as we do play out in wildlife habitat areas on a regular basis.

Any thoughts or suggestions on this topic?

Be well,

Danielle Slate
Sisters, OR

A: Danielle, I love GSPs! After great consideration and consultation with my vet and other individuals in the dog world, I have decided to vaccinate both my dogs against Leptospirosis. While my dogs rarely visit a public dog park, they are out and about in nature every day where the disease could easily be picked up. Two very helpful web sites I found on this topic are www.leptoinfo.com and www.2ndchance.info. I suggest reading all you can to further educate yourself about this very prevalent threat and understand that it can be picked up in city and suburban areas as well as in more rural, wooded regions throughout the country. For best results, be sure to keep this vaccination separate from any other inoculations and remember to keep your pets appointment for the 3 week follow up booster. Thank you for your important inquiry!

Email Jenn your questions
and share your pics at
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