



Study Reveals Challenges and Solutions for Consistent Flea and Tick Prevention

U.S. Veterinarians Share Their Perspectives on Parasite Treatment and Prevention in the United States: A Global Survey

Fleas and ticks pose a year-round threat to both pet and human health, potentially transmitting serious infections and diseases like tapeworms and Lyme disease.

A recent global survey from Merck Animal Health, reveals critical gaps in pet owner adherence, knowledge of flea and tick threats, as well as preferences for treatment options, alongside veterinarian perspectives on these issues. The survey underscores the need for consistent, year-round flea and tick prevention – particularly as recent data links warmer temperatures to the expanding geographic spread of fleas and ticks.



Temperatures are Changing and so is the Parasite Landscape

Recent data illustrates that the world has experienced the **hottest decade in history**ⁱ and changes in the climate are attributed to the expansion of fleas and ticks in more geographic regions than ever before.ⁱⁱ



Flea and tick season is lasting longer as the climate is warming, and seasons shift.

Therefore, one way warmer temperatures might affect human health is by increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases.ⁱⁱⁱ



U.S. veterinarians (57%) are 3x more likely to define flea and tick season as year-round compared to U.S. pet owners (16%).



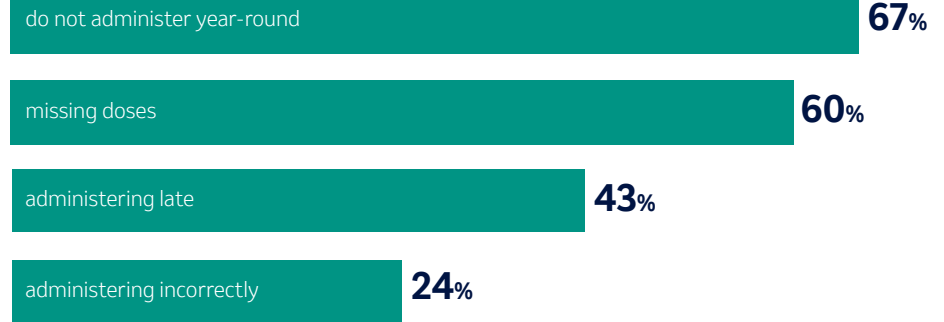
Pet Owners Face Challenges Adhering to Flea and Tick Care, and Veterinarians are Concerned

Despite pet owners perceiving fleas and ticks as harmful to their pet and their family **62%** and **50%**

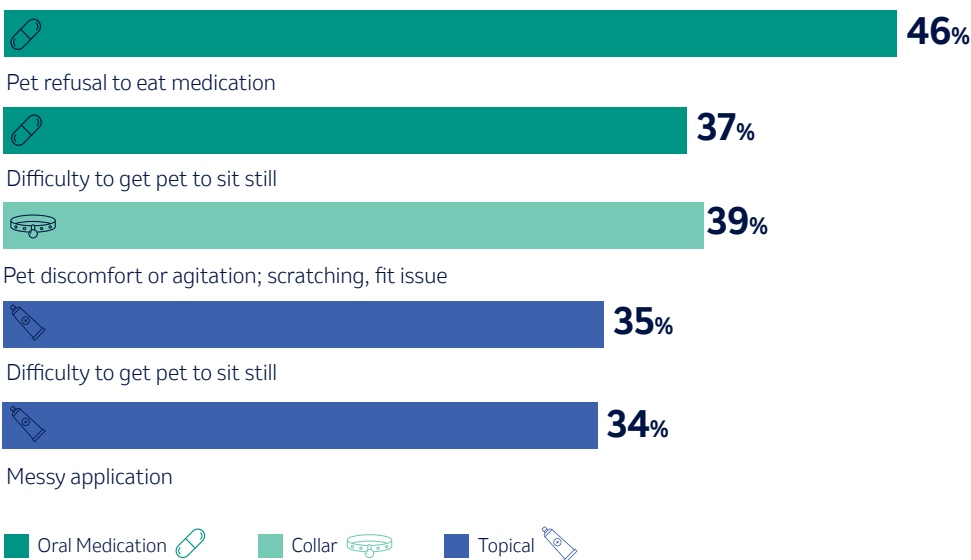
half admitted to forgetting to administer treatment in the past year.

51% of dog owners and **49%** cat owners

Many U.S. veterinarians believe most of their clients exhibit non-adherence when it comes to treating their pets, including:



And veterinarians are right to be concerned, with around half (51%) of pet owners reporting administering flea and tick solutions can be difficult, including:



It's important for veterinarians to help pet owners understand the potential harm fleas and ticks can cause to animals and humans and elevate the importance of a comprehensive care plan.



It's Time to Set a New Standard of Care with a Once-Yearly Flea and Tick Prescription Medication Administered by Veterinarians

For convenience and peace of mind, a once-yearly treatment could make a big impact for pet owners and veterinarians alike.

58% of U.S. pet owners would prefer to treat their cat and/or dog for fleas and ticks less frequently and

73% are likely to try a once-yearly flea and tick medication.



of U.S. veterinarians are likely to recommend a once-yearly option

For more information, visit <https://www.merck-animal-health.com/media/fleaandtick-global-survey/>

Survey Methodology:

The Pet Owner & Vet Perspectives on Parasite Treatment and Prevention: A Global Survey was conducted by Savanta on behalf of Merck Animal Health among n=4,072 pet owners and n=582 veterinarians in 15 countries. Pet owners were adults 18+ who own a dog and/or cat. Pet owner sample size by country: Australia & New Zealand n=268, Brazil n=318, Canada n=277, China n=256, France n=257, Germany n=259, Italy n=283, Japan n=289, Mexico n=286, Peru n=286, Poland n=296, Spain n=294, United Kingdom (UK) n=276, United States (U.S.) n=427.

Veterinarians worked at least 10 hours a week in practice and treat both dogs and cats. Veterinarian sample size by country: Australia & New Zealand n=40, Brazil n=43, Canada n=43, China n=52, France n=41, Germany n=41, Italy n=42, Japan n=24, Mexico n=52, Peru n=40, Poland n=38, Spain n=42, United Kingdom (UK) n=42, United States (U.S.) n=42. The research was conducted online between December 23, 2024, and January 28, 2025.

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ⁱ Sonenshine DE. Range Expansion of Tick Disease Vectors in North America: Implications for Spread of Tick-Borne Disease. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2018 Mar 9;15(3):478. doi: 10.3390/ijerph15030478. PMID: 29522469; PMCID: PMC5877023.

ⁱⁱ World Meteorological Organization. State of the Global Climate 2024 (WMO-No. 1368). WMO; 2025. Accessed April 17, 2024. <https://library.wmo.int/viewer/69455/?offset=#page=32&viewer=picture&o=bookmark&n=0&q=>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Climate Effects on Vector-Borne Diseases." CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/media/pdfs/VECTOR-BORNE-DISEASE-Final_508_1.pdf. Accessed April 17, 2025.