



# 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

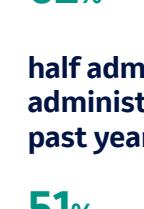
Fleas and ticks pose a year-round threat to both pet and human health, potentially transmitting serious infections and diseases like tapeworms and Lyme disease.

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<sup>i</sup> and changes in the climate are attributed to the expansion of fleas and ticks in more geographic regions than ever before.<sup>ii</sup>



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.<sup>iii</sup>



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  
62% their family  
50%

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

51% of dog owners  
49% cat owners

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

do not administer year-round 67%

missing doses 60%

administering late 43%

administering incorrectly 24%

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

46%  
Pet refusal to eat medication

37%  
Difficulty to get pet to sit still

39%  
Pet discomfort or agitation; scratching, fit issue

35%  
Difficulty to get pet to sit still

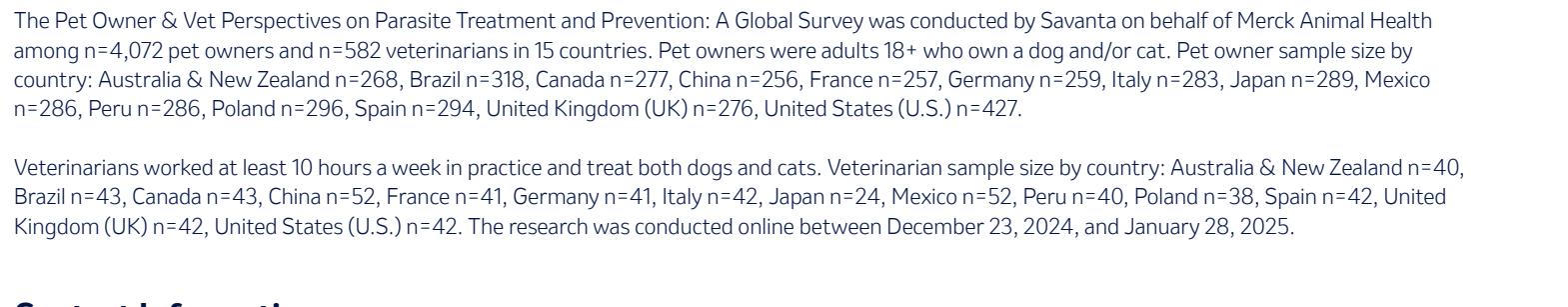
34%  
Messy application

Oral Medication

Collar

Topical

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.

76%

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/](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 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 n=10 hours a week n=11 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.

<sup>i</sup>Sorenson 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.

<sup>ii</sup>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=%23page-32&viewer=picture&so=bookmark&n=0&sq=>

<sup>iii</sup>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](https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/media/pdfs/VECTOR-BORNE-DISEASE-Final_508_1.pdf). Accessed April 17, 2025.

Copyright © 2025 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.

