



The Pet Column

By Abbas Hussain of Principal Pets

How To Deal With A Flea Infestation

Step 1: Treat your pets

Treat all cats and dogs and, if necessary small animals, with an appropriate 'spot on' treatment. You can also treat cats and dogs with flea tablets for more immediate treatment of fleas (the spot on treatments can take 3 to 4 days to work effectively). Even if you treat with flea tablets, it's also worth using a spot on treatment to stop reinfestation for 3 to 4 weeks.

Step 2: Wash all bedding

Once the bedding is dry, spray with a flea spray. Use a flea spray that will disrupt the development of fleas in the larval stages for 6 months or longer. This will help to stop reinfestation.

Small items that cannot be washed or sprayed, such as children's toys, can be bagged and placed in a freezer for 5 days to kill flea eggs and larvae.

Step 3: Vacuum the whole house

Flea larvae crawl away from light and hide in shaded areas underneath furniture, so vacuum the whole house thoroughly, including any crevices, down the skirting boards, and especially where pets go. Vacuum all upholstery, especially where pets tend to lie.

Step 4: Treat your home

Spray your entire house, one room at a time with a good flea spray with a guard action that lasts for at least 6 months. Close all the doors and windows, make sure the pets are not in the room and fish tanks are covered and airtight and with the pumps turned off.

Whenever spraying soft or delicate fabrics, it is recommended you do a patch test.

Use in all areas where pets have been. Make sure you spray along skirting boards, in any cracks and crevices, all soft furnishings, carpets and even in the car. We suggest wearing a decorator's mask while spraying to avoid breathing the fumes. When the entire room has been sprayed, exit, closing the door behind you, and leave for about an hour, then give the room a good airing. We suggest you do living areas last thing at night and bedrooms first thing in the morning.

Step 5: Vacuum again

After the spray is left to dry for an hour or so, air and vacuum each room to pick up any larvae and fleas missed the first time. Remember to uncover fish tanks and turn the pumps back on.

When emptying the vacuum cleaner, do so outside, then spray the inside of the vacuum dust bag or cylinder to stop any eggs or larvae picked up by the vacuum cleaner developing.

Step 6: Preventing reinfestation

Continue to treat all cats and dogs in the household with a monthly spot on treatment. It is also worth treating your home once a year.



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Hazelwell welcomes new manager with a wealth of experience



Kathryn McGuinness

A Wirral care home has welcomed a new manager whose fascinating career started at 16, training in the same hospital as a famous hip surgeon.

The Hazelwell, a residential, nursing, palliative and respite care home in Heswall, has appointed the extremely well qualified Kathryn McGuinness into their top leadership role as care home manager, and is looking forward to benefitting

from her rich career and life experience.

Kathryn, who has had a varied and successful career in the world of nursing and caring, realised it was the career for her when at 16 she worked as a cadet nurse at Wrightington Hospital where Professor John Charnley, MBE, was based. The pioneer orthopaedic surgeon transformed modern medicine's approach to hip replacement operations from his work in 1962 with the introduction of the modern artificial joint. A hip replacement is now one of the most common operations in the UK.

After going on to train at Ormskirk hospital in Lancashire, Kathryn's career has seen her move to hospitals around the country in different prestigious roles, including orthopaedic trauma, A&E, a senior sister for NHS Direct, and an assessor for a drug and alcohol charity.

Kathryn has even won awards for her work and when she was lead research nurse in a diabetes project she was presented with a Welsh Office award presented by the Secretary of Health for Wales, Jane Hunt.

In more recent years Kathryn has worked for residential homes, starting as a matron in a small care home in Birkdale, then moving to Gillibrand Hall in Chorley where she stayed for nearly five years.

Her last post before joining The Hazelwell was peripatetic regional manager for a group of homes in Lancashire where she concentrated particularly on turning one failing home on the verge of closure around to receiving a great Care Quality Commission inspection and being at near maximum capacity.

In Kathryn's new role she will be heading up the staff team at The Hazelwell, a luxury care home situated on the former site of the Cleaver Hospital.

The 55-bed care home opened in July 2016 and has been rated as 'good' by the CQC, the independent regulator of health and social services in England.

Kathryn, who now lives in Rainford near St Helens, said: "I saw The Hazelwell and all it had to offer and I fell in love with the place. I was over the moon to get the post.

"I'm really excited to be a part of the excellent team at The Hazelwell and to share what I have learned throughout my career to continue to make The Hazelwell the best care home it can possibly be.

"I had no idea when I started out as a cadet nurse at 16 where my career would take me, but I'm so happy when I think of the journey I've been on and how it has led me here."

Outside of work Kathryn's interests are as varied as her career, breeding horses, playing basketball and studying nutrition.

For more information about The Hazelwell contact Kathryn on 0151 342 9654, email info@thehazelwell.com or visit www.thehazelwell.com