

I have tried several flea and tick products for my dog. None of them have worked very well. How can I choose the best one to use?

It seems every month another company is advertising their new product as the one that will kill these annoying parasites the fastest, repel them the best, and last the longest. Those features are all important to consider, but there are many other considerations. Because of all of the choices on the market, it is best to discuss this with your veterinarian who can help you make an educated decision.

What is your dog's lifestyle? Does he swim a lot? If so, you may find one of the prescription products taken internally will last longer and be more effective. Will you have trouble remembering to apply or give a product monthly? Then perhaps a new type of long lasting collar will be better for your situation. Do you have little children in the house? If you use a topical product or a collar-type product, you will have to be careful that your little one doesn't come in contact with the dog before the product dries or handle the collar. Discuss potential side effects of the products with your veterinarian. Some dogs, particularly tiny white ones have an itchy skin reaction after the application of a topical product, so that may not be the best for them. Make sure the product you select is safe around cats if you have cats who are close friends of the dog. In addition, each product has safety labeling regarding minimum weight and age of pet for which it is intended. Some products are labeled as unsafe for debilitated, pregnant, or lactating pets. There are many non-toxic products that contain herbs or essential oils which may be an option if the problem is not too severe.

I know you don't want to see another flea or tick on your dog, but choose a product wisely and follow package instructions.

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