



PARASITE PROTECTION FOR PETS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PREVENTION FOR YOUR PET CAN BE OVERWHELMING—BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE!

This chart compares popular options based on the parasites they target (like fleas, ticks, and worms), how they're applied (topical vs. oral), and important safety considerations when choosing.

Wait... Why Did I Just See a Tick on My Dog?

Preventatives work differently! Some **repel** parasites (so you won't see them), while others **kill after biting** (so pests may attach briefly before falling off).

Curious how your chosen product works? Scan the QR code to dive deeper into the science behind parasite protection on our website!

Brand Name	For	Rx Required?	Coverage						Minimum Age (Minimum Weight)		Application (Duration)	Safe for Heartworm Positive Pets?	Active Ingredient(s)	Notes and Safety Considerations			
			External Parasites				Internal Parasites		Cats	Dogs							
			Fleas	Ticks	Lice	Mites	Heartworm	Hookworm	Roundworm	Whipworm					Tapeworm		
Simparica TRIO <small>(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets)</small> SIMPARICA TRIO		Yes	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			-	8 weeks (1.3kg)	Chewable Tablet (30 days)	Yes	Sarolaner, Moxidectin, Pyrantel	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.
Simparica <small>(sarolaner) Chewables</small> SIMPARICA		Yes	✓	✓								-	8 weeks (1.3kg)	Chewable Tablet (30 days)	Yes	Sarolaner	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.
revolution [®] (selamectin) REVOLUTION		Yes	✓			✓	✓		✓			6 weeks	6 weeks	Topical (30 days)	Yes	Selamectin	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Consult your vet—especially if your pet takes other medications.
revolution PLUS <small>(selamectin and sarolaner topical solution)</small> REVOLUTION PLUS		Yes	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			6 weeks	-	Topical (30 days)	Yes	Selamectin, Sarolaner	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets, though rare neurological events (e.g., tremors) may occur in pets with pre-existing neurological conditions. The MDR1 mutation is less studied in cats.
Advantage II ADVANTAGE II		No	✓									8 weeks	7 weeks	Topical (30 days)	-	Imidacloprid, Pyriproxyfen	Topical application – forms a protective barrier on skin and hair that kills fleas and lice on contact. For best results, avoid bathing for 48 hours after application. Frequent water exposure (like bathing and swimming) can reduce effectiveness.
advantage multi [®] <small>(imidacloprid+moxidectin)</small> ADVANTAGE MULTI		Yes	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			8 weeks	7 weeks	Topical (30 days)	Yes	Imidacloprid, Moxidectin	Topical application protects against fleas at skin/hair level (water exposure can reduce effectiveness). Moxidectin is absorbed systemically. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Consult your vet—especially if your pet takes other medications.
K9 Advantix II K9 ADVANTIX II		No	✓	✓	✓							-	8 weeks	Topical (30 days)	-	Imidacloprid, Permethrin, Pyriproxifen	Topical application protects against fleas at skin/hair level (water exposure can reduce effectiveness). CAUTION: Never use on cats: permethrin is highly toxic and can be fatal. Even small amounts or contact with treated dogs can cause severe reactions.
MULTI-DUO	Contains both Advantage Multi [®] and K9 Advantix II [®] in one package. Provides the same parasite protection, and has identical safety considerations as when these products are used separately.																

References
 1. Zoetis CVP – Zoetis Portfolio. zoetisportfolio.cvp-service.com
 2. Merck Animal Health – Product List. www.merck-animal-health.ca
 3. Boehringer Ingelheim – Animal Health Products. www.boehringer-ingelheim.com
 4. Elanco/Bayer – Animal Health Drugs. www.drugs.com

Brand Name	For	Rx Required?	Coverage					Minimum Age (Minimum Weight)		Application (Duration)	Safe for Heartworm Positive Pets?	Active Ingredient(s)	Notes and Safety Considerations			
			External Parasites		Internal Parasites			Cats	Dogs							
			Fleas	Ticks	Lice	Mites	Heartworm	Hookworm	Roundworm					Whipworm	Tapeworm	
CAPSTAR™ (NITENPYRAM) CAPSTAR		No	✓							4 weeks (1kg)	4 weeks (1kg)	Oral Tablet <i>Once daily until fleas no longer found on host</i>	Yes	Nitenpyram	Absorbed systemically. Fleas take at least 3 months to complete their life cycle (from egg to adult). If you spot fleas on your pet, use Capstar to kill adults, then continue monthly parasite prevention for at least 3 months to break their life cycle and prevent reinfestation.	
BRAVECTO® (fluralaner) BRAVECTO		Yes	✓	✓						6 months (1.2kg)	6 months (2kg)	Oral [dogs only], Topical [both] (90 days)	Yes	Fluralaner	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.	
BRAVECTO® 1-MONTH (fluralaner) Chews BRAVECTO ONE		Yes	✓	✓						-	8 weeks (2kg)	Oral Chew (30 days)	Yes	Fluralaner	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.	
Interceptor (milbemycin oxime) INTERCEPTOR		Yes				✓	✓	✓		6 months (0.9kg)	6 months (2kg)	Oral Tablet (30 days)	No	Milbemycin	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Consult your vet—especially if your pet takes other medications.	
INTERCEPTOR® PLUS (milbemycin oxime/praziquantel) INTERCEPTOR PLUS		Yes				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2 weeks	2 weeks	Oral Tablet (30 days)	No	Milbemycin, Praziquantel	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Consult your vet—especially if your pet takes other medications.
NexGard SPECTRA™ NEXGARD SPECTRA		Yes	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		8 weeks (2kg)	Chewable Tablet (30 days)	No	Afoxolaner, Milbemycin	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.	
NexGard® NEXGARD		Yes	✓	✓							8 weeks (2kg)	Chewable Tablet (30 days)	Yes* <i>*Not studied in Canada, but studied to be safe in the US</i>	Afoxolaner	Absorbed systemically and safe for most pets. Rare neurological events (like tremors) have been reported in pets with pre-existing conditions. Check with your vet to see if this is right for your pet.	
NexGard COMBO™ NEXGARD COMBO		Yes	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	8 weeks	-	Topical (30 days)	Yes* <i>*Not studied in Canada, but studied to be safe for cats in the US</i>	Esafoxolaner, Eprinomectin, Praziquantel	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets, though rare neurological events (e.g., tremors) may occur in pets with pre-existing neurological conditions. The MDR1 mutation is less studied in cats, but cats where this mutation is suspected should avoid this medication.	
Heartgard® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) HEARTGARD PLUS		Yes				✓	✓	✓			6 weeks	Chewable Tablet (30 days)	Yes* <i>*Not studied in Canada, but studied to be safe for in the US</i>	Ivermectin, Pyrantel	Absorbed systemically. Safe for most pets. Herding breeds (e.g., Collies) with the MDR1 mutation may be more sensitive. Consult your vet—especially if your pet takes other medications.	



Tick Talk
Ticks are blood-feeding arachnids that prey on animals like dogs, cats, and humans. Scan the QR code to learn more about these tiny terrors!



Notes and Safety Considerations



An Active Look at Active Ingredients

Why 'How It Works' Matters for Your Pet

Not all parasite medications work the same way!

Understanding the science helps you:

- ✓ **Choose the right protection** for your pet's lifestyle
- ✓ **Set realistic expectations** about what you might (or won't) see with parasites on your pet

1 Topical Only Medications

Works on contact via skin oils – "translocation"

Examples: Imidacloprid, Pyriproxyfen, Permethrin (*dogs only*)

Available as topicals, flea collars, and sprays (e.g. Advantage, Zodiac, etc.)



How They Work:

- Like sunscreen, forms an **exterior protective "shield"**
- Kill parasites that **crawl on** your pet, on contact.

What You Might See:

- **Dead fleas/ticks** on your pet's (they die after touching treated fur)
- **Seeing any live parasites mean protection failed** – contact your vet if you spot active fleas/ticks on your pet



CAUTION: Permethrin is Extremely Toxic to Cats

Permethrin and other pyrethrin-based pesticides are fatal to cats and common in dog flea/tick products.

Never use in cat households: even indirect exposure (like cuddling with a treated dog in the same home) can lead to toxic exposure.

This toxicity issue famously affected Hartz products due to labeling errors, resulting in preventable cat deaths.

2 Systemic Medications

Absorbed into bloodstream – whole-body protection

Examples:

- Isoxazolines (Sarolaner, Fluralaner, Afoxolaner, etc.)
- Macrocyclic Lactones (Ivermectin, Moxidectin, etc.)

Available as:

- *Oral chews (e.g. Simparica Trio, Nexgard, Bravecto, etc.)*
- *Topicals (e.g. Revolution, Advantage Multi, etc.)*



How They Work:

- Medication enters bloodstream (**via digestion or skin absorption**)
- Kills parasites **when they bite** your pet and consume blood.

What You Might See:

- You **may** see parasites on your pet however, they die quickly after biting and before disease transmission can occur.



Safety Considerations

Because these medications circulate in the bloodstream, they may interact with other health conditions.

Pets with a history of:

- Neurologic disorders (e.g., seizures)
- Medication sensitivities (e.g. MDR1 mutation)

should be evaluated by a vet before starting systemic preventives.



So What's the Best Choice?

The right parasite prevention depends on your pet's unique needs.

Consider:

- Lifestyle
- Local Risks
- Ease of Use
- Health History

Still unsure? Your vet is your best resource to make an informed decision.