

Pest Bio

Providing All Your Pest Facts

Flea



The Oriental Rat Flea is a vector of *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium which caused the bubonic plague! Fleas transmitted it to rats who then spread it to humans.

There are approximately 2,500 species of fleas. Fleas are a small flightless insect that survives as an external parasite on mammals and birds. Fleas flat bodies make them very agile and help them easily navigate through fur and feathers. They can jump 50 times their own length. Their mouth parts are made to pierce skin and suck blood from its host and its legs have strong claws made for hooking into its host. Their antenna are so small they can not be seen with the naked eye.

Call Barrier for help managing Fleas

208-463-4533

DIET

Fleas feed on blood from any warm-blooded body including humans. Fleas prefer to eat from hairy animals like dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, mice, skunks, raccoons and opossums. Some even feed on birds.

HABITAT

When not on a host fleas prefer moist, shady, cool places. They thrive in shrubs, leaves and trees and don't do well in sunny areas or open grass.

BEHAVIOR

Adult fleas usually live on one animal its whole life but may move from one animal to another when the animals sleep or play together. They will eat 10-15 blood meals per day.

Flea Facts:

Size: 1/16"-1/8"

Shape: Flat

Color: Brown

Legs: 6

Wings: No

Antenna: Yes

Scientific Name:

Kingdom:

-Animalia

Pylum:

-Arthropoda

Class:

-Insecta

Order:

-Siphonaptera

Family:

-Pulicidae

Genus:

-Ctenocephalides