

# News

## The Untamable Itch – Flea Allergy Dermatitis

ts 5 a.m. and the jingle of the collar tag is just beginning. The occasional itching, scratching and tail biting you noticed last week has spread to fervor. It's beginning to sound like Christmas in July, but June has only begun.

You decide to take a look and notice little black specks covering your dog like poppy seeds on a muffin.

"Eureka!" you exclaim, as you grasp the little bugger between your fingertips.

But what exactly is the culprit behind the mayhem? Fleas!

Flea allergy dermatitis is the most common hypersensitivity skin disorder seen in dogs and cats. The cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) is the most common flea found on both dogs and cats. Adult fleas spend most of their life cycle on the animal where they can begin producing eggs in as little as 24 hours. Eggs of fleas are found in the environment (toys, bedding, carpets) and thrive in warm, moist conditions. Summer and fall are the peak seasons for flea infestations.

The entire flea life cycle can occur in as little as two weeks. In just 30 days, a flea can produce up to 500 eggs.

Animals with fleas display classical symptoms. Excessive pruritis (itching) is the most common clinical sign observed by owners. Crusting, bumps, and hair loss may appear on the back, thighs, abdomen and neck where high densities of fleas are located.

To diagnose, your veterinarian will run a flea comb through the fur to look for flea dirt (excrement) or the flea itself.

Prevention is key and there are many drugs currently on the market. Dips, sprays, collars, topical and injectable medicines are available in a variety of prices and application frequency to match all budgets and lifestyles. Al-



Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter, Veterinarian

though over-the-counter (OTC) flea treatments are available, they have variable success rates and the most effective flea treatments are found at your veterinary hospital. Your veterinarian will select the best medicine for your pet based on age, weight, breed, and severity.

Home remedies – such as brewer's yeast, garlic, sulfur, thiamine, eucalyptus extracts, and electronic flea collars – have been proven ineffective and should not be used as flea repellent.

Treating the pet is the first step in ridding your life of fleas, but you must also treat the environment. Vacuum carpets, wash toys and bedding and have a professional exterminator treat your home and yard.

Flea pupa can lay dormant in the environment for months, so it is important to kill the immature stages of the flea as well.

All animals entering your home should be on flea prevention medication. Newly acquired or visiting animals should be confirmed flea negative before being cohoused with existing pets.

Following these steps will help your pet live a flea-free life.

*Do you have a pet topic you'd like to learn more about? I'd love to hear from you! Write me at drjasmine@theskanner.com*

## Art cont'd from pg 5

taken part in the popular and competitive program.

Each year, members of Congress put out a call for students to compete in the contest and the resulting work is displayed on the white walls of a long tunnel that connects House Office Buildings to the U.S. Capitol.

The work is seen by members of Congress, staffers, lobbyists and the thousands of visitors to the U.S. Capitol complex each year.

Inadvertently, the annual art contest has become a reflection of what's on the minds of young people in America.

Pulphus' work is an acrylic painting featuring a downtown street scene with the St. Louis' iconic arch displayed in the background and three police officers with animal heads, two with guns in hand, and a large group of marchers approaching moving toward the police.

The lead marcher carries a sign that says the word "history."

Pulphus' painting includes several signs, one of which says "Racism Kills," and another reading "Stop Killing."

On the right you can see man being crucified wearing a graduation cap holding the scales of justice in his hands.

Pulphus' "visually stunning acrylic painting on canvas entitled, "Untitled #1" will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol Complex.

Pulphus will travel to Washington, DC, courtesy of Southwest Airlines, to unveil his winning entry. The painting portrays a colorful landscape of symbolic

Wire, Rep. Clay was asked about Pulphus' work.

The Congressman will greet the artist in Washington, D.C. and be present with Pulphus' when the painting is presented for display in the U.S. Capitol complex.

"I think that the art work selected for this year – winner of the Congressional art competition has to be the most creative expression that I've witnessed over the last 16 years,"

**“Pulphus' painting includes several signs, one of which says 'Racism Kills,' and another reading 'Stop Killing'**

characters representing social injustice, the tragic events in Ferguson, Mo., and the lingering elements of inequality in modern American society," read a May 6, release from Rep. Clay's office.

Rep. Clay represents greater St. Louis and Ferguson, Mo., where in August 2014, Black teenager Michael Brown, Jr., was shot and killed by Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson.

During an interview with the NNPA News

Rep. Clay said between votes on the House floor.

"I'm very proud of the young man who is the artist responsible for this work he depicts the St. Louis community in the way he envisions it. I respect that and I'm so glad that the judges picked his work number one as the winner."

Pulphus' work will travel to Washington, D.C. in a few weeks where he will attend a reception for all of the winners around the country.

### Obituary: James H. Brown

March 27, 1943 - May 14, 2016

James H. Brown is survived by his wife, Mary Brown; daughters, Edith Michele Brown and LeAnne Marie Owens; son, Eric Howard Brown. There will be public viewing on Thursday, June 2, from 4 pm to 7 pm at Terry Family Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 3, at 1030 am at Bethel AME Church, 5828 NE 8th Ave. Portland with military honors following

at Willamette National Cemetery at 1:30 pm.

For full obituary see: [terryfamily-funeralhome.com](http://terryfamily-funeralhome.com).

Arrangements by Terry Family Funeral Home, 503-249-1788.



# MFHM

## My Father's House Ministries

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