

Strategies for control of lice in dogs

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ABSTRACT

Trichodectes Canis (Dog louse), are often found with their mouth parts embedded in the skin. Lice infestation mostly occurs in animals living in crowded conditions. Life infestation mostly occur in animals that are not frequently observed lice are of two types sucking lice and biting lice sucking lice suck blood from the skin while chewing lice pierce the skin.

Introduction:

Lice spend their whole life on the host. They have no wings. Lice lay eggs (nits) near the base of hairs. They mostly live in the back, neck, and head especially [5, 6].

Life Cycle (Lice):

Lice lay eggs around the base of hair which hatch within 7 -14 days. After hatching egg changes to nymph 1, then after molt changes to nymph 2, then into nymph 3, and finally in adult after 21 days [1].
Egg>Nymph1>Nymph2>Nymph3>Adult

Treatment:

Cypermethrin, Ivermectin, Pyrethroids, and 5% malathion dust have been effective, Coopex, is the product used in the treatment of lice infestation in canines [2, 7].

Control:

Topical insecticides like imidacloprid applied topically every two weeks will also kill lice. Insecticide treatments given topically in shampoos will kill nymphs and adults but not the eggs. Make sure you wash all bedding, and dog collars in hot water and clean the area where the dog spends more time. Thus any treatment must be repeated at regular intervals for at least one month. Good nutrition, avoiding overcrowding, cull animals with a much heavier infestation, grooming frequently and sanitize grooming are the measures in case of controlling the lice. Comb out nits with vinegar. The vinegar's acid helps dissolve the adhesives that hold the nits to the hair. Lice are killed by lavender oil but not nits [3, 4, 8].

Conclusion:

These are species specific to dogs and other species may bite humans. If close contact or heavy infestation are present but do not stay on humans very long and do not complete their life cycle. Make sure you wash all bedding, and dog collars in hot water and clean area where the dog spend more time.

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