

Call the Right Health Professional

Consult a licensed holistic veterinarian before using natural flea and tick products.

By Helen Jablonski

It's important to consult a licensed holistic veterinarian before using any natural flea and tick products on your cat. Holistic veterinarians are dedicated to caring for your cat as naturally as possible, and they are knowledgeable about the benefits and potential risks of any natural treatments.

Cats are especially sensitive to powders and essential oils. Well-intentioned cat owners might mistakenly apply too much of a product, which can result in a poisonous overdose.

"Cats have a very acute sense of smell and some cats may even lose their appetite if they have a strong aroma applied," says Katy Sommers, a holistic veterinarian in Ukiah, Calif. "Cats will lick their coats to remove offensive material, and [can] ingest a potentially toxic amount."

Pay attention to product ingredients, as some deadly synthetic chemicals have names very similar to safe, natural compounds.

Natural flea and tick preventives and treatments can be very effective, but remember that all flea and tick products, both natural and synthetic, should be administered with extreme caution to ensure your cat's health and safety.

You can find a holistic veterinarian through the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.