



▲ **FIGURE 1** Fleas and flea feces on a cat. Image courtesy of Simone Morelli, University of Teramo



▲ **FIGURE 2** Tick feeding on a cat. Image courtesy of Ilaria Russi, University of Teramo

... TO YOUR PATIENTS

Key pearls to put into practice:

- 1** Fleas and ticks are key ectoparasites in cats, and although vector-borne diseases are more common in dogs, cats are also affected. Some transmitted pathogens also pose a zoonotic risk to humans.
- 2** Educating cat owners on the importance of using flea and tick preventives is imperative, regardless of the recommended/prescribed product. Clinicians should also consider following recognized guidelines (eg, from the Companion Animal Parasite Council) in order to safeguard patient health and minimize risks for humans.
- 3** Many marketed ectoparasiticides have efficacy against both fleas and ticks. Recommendations should be made based on individual patient considerations, including geographic location. In addition, owner compliance should be considered, as it has an impact on the reliability of ectoparasite control programs.

References

1. Lappin MR. Update on flea and tick associated diseases of cats. *Vet Parasitol*. 2018;254:26-29.
2. Traversa D. Fleas infesting pets in the era of emerging extra-intestinal nematodes. *Parasit Vectors*. 2013;6:59.

Research Note: Association Between Clinical Abnormalities & Tissue Damage in Blocked Cats

This retrospective study reported the gross and histopathologic postmortem findings of the urinary tract in 14 cats with a history of urinary obstruction and compared results with the clinical severity of disease. Gross and histopathologic bladder and renal lesions were common, with renal lesions typically consisting of tubulointerstitial nephritis and lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate. The severity of urethral lesions was not associated with the severity of bladder lesions; however, the degree of serum hyperkalemia was associated with the severity of bladder and kidney lesions. An association between severity of bladder lesions and degree of azotemia could not be determined because of the study's small sample size and exclusion of those cats with the highest levels of azotemia.

Source

Mauro KD, Bradley CW, Drobatz KJ. Postmortem urinary tract changes in cats with urethral obstruction. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2021;30(2):187-193.