

# Natural Pet Care for Dogs

*Note: This document was compiled by a herbalist. The Dog and Cat Management Board has not validated any of the natural pet care measures recommended in this document.*

## The herb Fennel can be used effectively for the prevention of fleas on dogs.

Fleas are a common problem with both cats and dogs and it is important to eradicate them not only from your pet but also from the areas that they use.

The herb Fennel can be used effectively for the prevention of fleas on dogs and cats. Take a large handful of fresh Fennel, crush to release the aroma and oils of the herb and rub all over the animal particularly around the ears and under their limbs etc. This method will not kill fleas but as they do not like the smell of Fennel they will generally jump off the animal. Place handfuls of Fennel in the dog's kennel, cat's basket and under the back mat where your pet lies.

Ensure your pet's bedding is washed regularly and dogs can be bathed in an infusion of Fennel to keep them free from fleas. After their normal bath and before drying the dog use a solution of boiled, cooled Fennel poured over their coat.

Herbs to help keep fleas away from an area include Pennyroyal, Thyme, Wormwood and Southernwood.

Coleus Canis (often referred to as Dog's Bane) is a herb that can be planted in an area of the garden that you don't want your dog to go into. Dogs find the smell offensive and will generally keep away from where it grows. A spray can be made of this plant to deter dogs from an area. Simply boil a handful of Coleus Canis in a saucepan of water and allow cooling. Strain the solution into a plastic spray bottle. Spray the area needing protection from dogs.

Eczema can be a problem for many dogs and cats. A simple effective treatment which may help is Calendula Cream (or English Marigold cream). Pluck a handful of petals from the Marigold bush and place them in a clean glass bottle or jar. Fill the jar to about one third with petals and then pour a good quality olive or almond oil over the petals and secure with a tight fitting lid. Leave in a sunny spot - a window sill or area in the sun for about a week in summer (two weeks in winter). When the oil turns a bright orange, strain it through a stocking or muslin cloth and use the oil on the affected area of your pet. If the symptoms persist see your local vet.

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