

THE PESTS THAT BOTHER YOUR PETS: FLIES



MerckVetManual.com



BITING FLIES

include mosquitoes, gnats, midges, black flies, sand flies, horse flies, deer flies, tsetse flies, and keds.

Bites can be painful, cause mild itchiness, or bring on allergic reactions. More importantly, many bloodsucking flies spread disease. For example, mosquitoes transmit heartworm, a potentially fatal parasitic disease that primarily affects dogs, cats, and ferrets. Other diseases spread by flies include yellow fever, West Nile virus, malaria, and many others.



OTHER FLIES, while they do not bite, can still be harmful.

Some flies feed on bodily secretions; eye gnats, for instance, are known to cause pinkeye. Flesh flies and house flies breed in waste and can contribute to food poisoning and other diseases. Bot flies and blow flies deposit their eggs in various places, and their larvae can infest living tissue (myiasis).

Veterinarians can also help with control of flies in places such as barns.

