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## ***Flea & treatment warning.***

Warning flea and tick products containing Isoxazolines  
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**WHAT THE FDA SAYS  
ABOUT FLEA & TICK MEDS**

**WARNING**



By: [Emily Vey](#)

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning dog owners about flea and tick medications.

This comes after reports of the drugs causing serious adverse reactions. The symptoms most often reported **include muscle tremors, ataxia and seizures.**

The FDA stated that flea and tick meds **are causing neurologic issues in pets.**

The symptoms most often reported include **muscle tremors, ataxia and seizures.**

**The side effects reported for these drugs are:**

- Tremors
- Seizures
- Ataxia
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Skin irritations
- Lethargy

**According to the FDA, the products affected are:**

- Bravecto
- Nexgard
- Simparica
- Credelio (received FDA approval in 2018)

These drugs all contain an ingredient called **isoxazoline.**

### **How do these drugs work?**

Isoxazolines are non-competitive GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) receptor antagonists.

This means they bind to chloride channels inside the flea or tick.

They then block nerve signals ... which will paralyze and kill the bugs.

When you give your dog a product containing **Isoxazolines**, they work systemically.

### **This means they affect the entire body.**

They're absorbed into his blood.

When fleas and ticks feast on your dog's blood, they also eat the chemicals **Isoxazolines**.

They become paralyzed and die.

## HOW FLEA AND TICK MEDS WORK

1

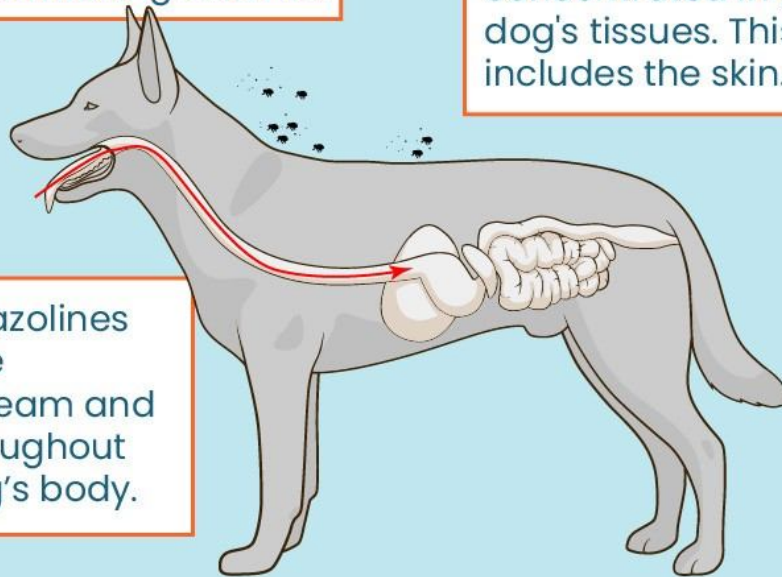
Your dog eats the chewable containing the harmful ingredients.

3

They become concentrated in your dog's tissues. This includes the skin.

2

The Isoxazolines enter the bloodstream and flow throughout your dog's body.



4

When fleas or ticks bite your dog, they ingest the Isoxazolines. The bugs are poisoned, get paralyzed and die ...

... but these Isoxazolines are also poisoning your dog and causing the same neurological issues that kill their fleas and ticks.

dogs naturally

**What are the dangers for your dog?**

The problem with poisoning fleas and ticks is that you have to first poison the host ... that's your dog.

The premise behind Isoxazolines is that your dog is a lot larger than a flea ... it's assumed a little bit of poison won't hurt him. And that might be true in most cases.

The problem is, nobody has asked this question ... what happens if I give my dog a small amount of poison every month for years?

While there is some testing on the safety of these drugs, the [safety studies](#) have only been for a few months. That's a problem.

The second problem is the FDA doesn't believe tremors and ataxia are something to worry about. But these symptoms show that dogs are being poisoned along with their pests ... just at a slower rate.

They're suffering the same neurological issues that kill their fleas and ticks.

In reality, every dog is at risk also your dog.

What "some" Vets say about flea and tick meds?

*Dr Tamara Hebbler.*

"This is no surprise. Every known insecticide/pesticide chemical has been shown to have severe neurological side-effects.

I've been practicing for 20 years. My first question for seizure patients is about insecticides in the home. I mean oral, topical and environmental.

We'll likely never adequately be able to keep up with insect resistance mutations.

And toxicity build up is real and has real impacts.

*Dr Josie Beug ... There is a critical need for ... to use safe natural alternatives and educate and empower ourselves."*

The public "assumes" the FDA adequately tests new products to see if they're safe.

I've learned to "wait and see" for a couple years after the release of new pharmaceuticals.

**Know this!** ... The safety testing is usually only done over a few months. But people are using these products monthly for years at a time on their animals.

A bold statement – but fact ... All of the flea and tick preventatives are toxic, they're made to kill insects after all.

A few weeks ago I had a seizure case referred to me. It was a 1 year old dog. He was neutered and vaccinated by the shelter, then fostered until adoption. She had him for about a month before she administered "Bravecto" to him for flea and tick preventative. Three days later he seized for the first time, four times in a row. She took him to a veterinary teaching hospital. Then another acupuncturist and then to the local neurologist.

No structural abnormalities were found on the MRI. The problem was, the dog was not responding to any of the treatments. This included quadruple doses of multiple anticonvulsants. He continued to have cluster seizures 1-2 times a week. The longest he has gone seizure free is 10 days, after starting CBD.

No one told her not to use Bravecto and she applied it a second time.

### **And now the announcement from the FDA.**

The second problem is, it's very hard to prove the Bravecto or any other toxin caused the seizures. That's how these companies get away with no repercussions.

I actually have 5 other cases of dogs and cats with neurological signs and ocular signs.

These cases coincide with heavy organophosphate spraying for mosquito control.

Again, proving cause and effect is difficult.

City and county governments continue spraying, even after public protests and hearings. The public outcry made a difference.

**Now** they're no longer publicly announcing spray dates. Great. We must all stay vigilant and research products and testing. If you're unsure, use something you know will do no harm. I recommend returning those products to the manufacture, demanding a refund. And please call and report any adverse reactions so the FDA can add them to the database."

*Dr Deva Khalsa* "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that products that kill fleas and ticks aren't healthy. Any oral or spot on (and collar) product is concentrated in your dog's tissues and bloodstream. These last for a month to three months. Isoxazolines bind to specific channels in cells, blocking the transmission of neuronal signals.

The bugs get paralyzed and die when they're exposed to it.

Isoxazolines are supposed to be much more selective in fleas and ticks than in mammals.

### **But does that matter?**

Neurological signs show that these chemicals are also blocking signals in our dogs. And they stay in high concentrations in our dogs for one to three months, depending on the product.

*"The FDA is working with manufacturers of isoxazoline products to include new label information to highlight neurologic events because these events were seen consistently across the isoxazoline class of products."*

The FDA has decided to put a warning on the label due to all of the reports they've received.

But how many pet owners and or veterinarians never think to report a pet with adverse reactions. In fact, one of the adverse reactions reported is death.

That said, how many pets are, in reality, having adverse reactions.

Then, there's the pet who has the reaction they can't talk about.

They might feel weak, or dizzy or slightly out of balance?

I've seen dogs who act this way after administration of one of these products.

Vomiting is also a very common side effect.

Here's my opinion.

There's no pharmaceutical product that kills fleas and ticks without harming your dog. I've written all about many other products in Dog's Naturally Magazine. Even the pyrethrins products have had the highest incidence of death as a side effect. This is because they have to use so much of the product to make it effective.

**Know this!** ... The problem with poisoning fleas and ticks is that you have to first poison the host ... that's your dog.

If your pet doesn't have a tendency to ever get fleas and ticks, simply don't use any of these products. Heavens, the stuff works instantly so if you did get fleas one dose would do it.

There are good preventives out there on the market that really work and are totally natural.

I have to be totally honest. I've been a veterinarian for 40 years. I've watched veterinary medicine become a corporate production line. Vets are administering unnecessary vaccine after vaccine. They're handing out unneeded toxic products like candy from a candy shop. But not only is it not candy, it's unhealthy for everything but their bottom line."

See related important info as dog owner ... There are natural alternatives that work really well. You can [find them here](#) or check out our [ultimate flea guide](#).

For years we've been raising awareness about the risks of flea and tick medications.

Needless to say, we're happy that the FDA is finally letting people know as well, even if it isn't in the best way.



### **FREE FLEA CHECKLIST**

Grab this [free guide and learn how to get fleas off your dog and out of your home without toxic chemicals...](#)

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[Emily Vey](#) is a content aficionado on the Dogs Naturally team. She's constantly looking for the most up-to-date news and information to share with DNM readers and to help her own dogs live the healthiest lives possible. She lives in Ontario with her partner-in-crime Ryan, their husky Inuk and German shepherd Indi. Together they enjoy hiking, swimming and all things outdoors!

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