



Flea and Tick Prevention

Our Approach

Flea and tick prevention is important, but there is not one single plan that is right for every dog in every part of the country.

In my program, I personally do not use oral flea and tick medications in the isoxazoline drug class. This includes products such as NexGard, Bravecto, Simparica, and Credelio. My reason is simple: these products carry an FDA warning for possible neurologic adverse effects, including tremors, ataxia, and seizures, and Dachshunds are a breed I prefer to approach cautiously when seizure risk is part of the conversation.

This is not meant to tell you what you should or should not use. It is simply to explain my personal approach and to encourage you to have a thoughtful conversation with your veterinarian about what makes the most sense for your puppy, your area, and your lifestyle.

FDA Warning

The FDA has advised pet owners and veterinarians that isoxazoline flea and tick products have been associated with neurologic adverse reactions.

Reported reactions include:

- Muscle tremors
- Ataxia or loss of coordination
- Seizures

The FDA also notes that these products are considered safe and effective for many pets, but that a pet's medical history should be part of the decision when choosing flea and tick prevention.

Why I Use Extra Caution in Dachshunds

Dachshunds can be a sensitive breed in several ways, and because there is no screening test available for seizure disorders, I prefer to be conservative when there are other options available.

That does not mean every Dachshund will have a problem with these products. It does mean I believe it is reasonable to slow down, look at your puppy's individual risk, and choose prevention based on actual need rather than using the same product automatically for every dog.

Questions to Ask Your Veterinarian

When deciding on flea and tick prevention, it is helpful to ask:

- How common are fleas and ticks where I live?
- What parasite-borne diseases are common in my area?
- Is my dog's lifestyle low, moderate, or high risk?
- Do we live near woods, fields, or heavy wildlife traffic?
- Will my dog be hiking, camping, or spending time in high-risk areas?
- What prevention option gives the best balance of safety and protection for my individual dog?

This helps you make an informed decision based on your region rather than fear or marketing.

Lower-Intervention Options

Some families prefer to begin with environmental management and topical repellents, especially if parasite pressure is lower where they live.

Options some owners choose to discuss with their veterinarian include:

- Spraying the yard with products such as Wondercide or Cedarcide.
- Using Wondercide or Cedarcide topical spray before walks in wooded or higher-risk areas.
- Doing frequent tick checks after time outdoors.
- Using diatomaceous earth carefully and appropriately.
- Using garlic only with veterinary guidance on safe dosing.

These options may be enough for some dogs in some environments, but not for all.

Stronger Options

If you live in an area with heavy flea or tick pressure, or in a region with significant tick-borne disease risk, you may decide your puppy needs stronger protection.

In those situations, talk with your veterinarian about options such as a Seresto collar or other non-isoxazoline preventives. Every product has pros and cons, and the goal is to choose the one that best fits your dog's risk level.

My Recommendation

My suggestion is to make this decision with your veterinarian after discussing:

- Your local flea and tick prevalence
- The diseases carried by those parasites in your region
- Your dog's lifestyle and exposure level
- Your comfort level with the different prevention options available

My personal preference is to avoid isoxazolines when possible and use lower-intervention methods first, but I want each family to make an informed choice that makes sense for their own dog.

References

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Fact Sheet for Pet Owners and Veterinarians about Potential Adverse Events Associated with Isoxazoline Flea and Tick Products.
2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Animal Drug Safety Communication: FDA alerts pet owners and veterinarians about potential neurologic adverse events associated with certain flea and tick products.
3. American Veterinary Medical Association. Four flea, tick products linked to seizures, ataxia.