

## **HEAD LICE CONTROL: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM VETERINARY MEDICINE?**

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Most insecticides used for control of ectoparasites of human and veterinary importance are spin-offs from agricultural research and development. The need for new methods and products for control of human head lice is crucial as the number of efficient insecticides is depleted due to e.g. resistance or unacceptable side effects. While head lice products still are dominated by “old” insecticides like organochlorines, organophosphates, carbamates and pyrethroids, a range of other and relatively new insecticides have been replacing or supplementing the latter insecticides for control of veterinary ectoparasites. Thus this paper looks at these new different types of insecticides used in veterinary medicine like the macrocyclic lactones (e.g. selamectin), arylpyrazoles (e.g. fipronil) and cloronicotinoids (e.g. imidacloprid and nitenpyram) plus some of the insect growth regulators (IGR’s) and insect development inhibitors (IDI’s) like lufenuron, methoprene and pyriproxyfen. These materials can be used for control of lice on domestic animals, especially pets, so why not humans? Also the discussion will evaluate what benefit there may be from mixing or combining adulticides with IDI’s or IGR’s, or boosting the effect of insecticides by using vegetable oils, which are currently little used.