

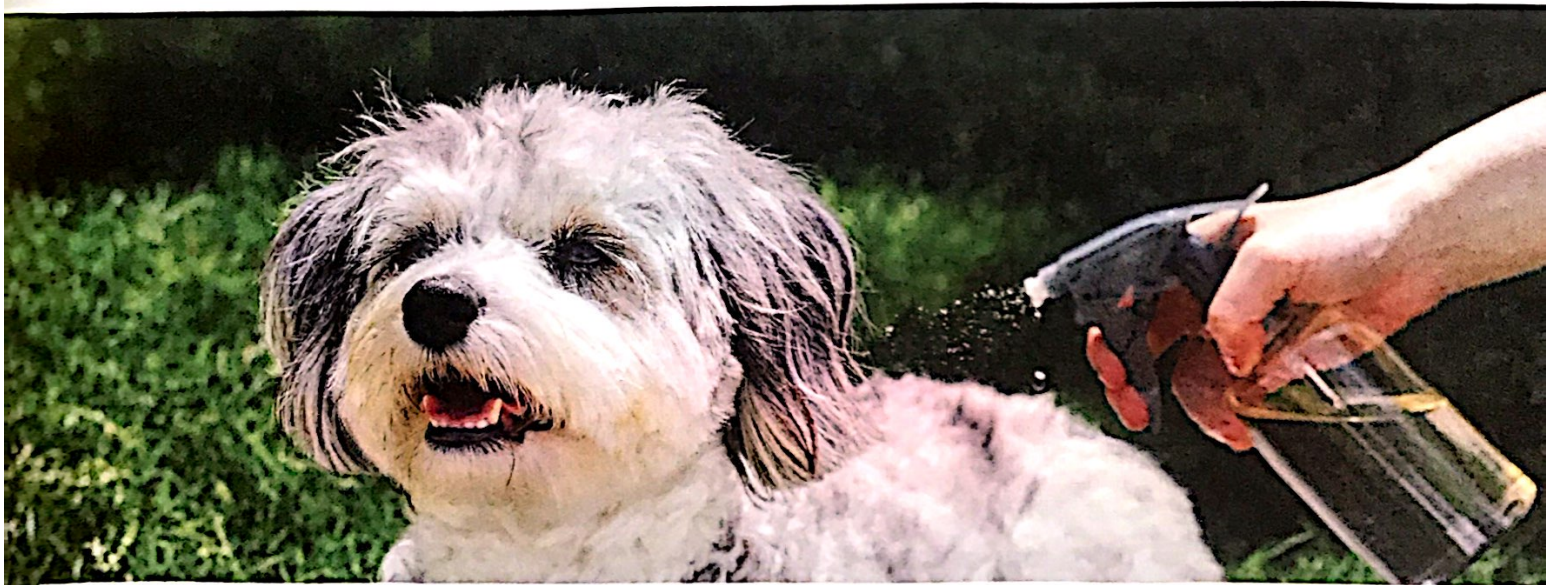
DIY Pest Spritz

Neem oil, which comes from the neem tree (an evergreen native to India), fights insects by slowing their growth, smothering them, preventing molting, and interfering with their hormones, making it more difficult for them to reproduce. Vanilla also functions as a deterrent, and aloe vera gel emulsifies the mixture for even distribution.

Yields approximately 1¼ cups

- 1 teaspoon neem oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup witch hazel
- ¼ cup aloe vera gel

1. Add all ingredients to a spray bottle and shake vigorously until ingredients are mixed well.
2. Shake well prior to each use and immediately spritz over dog (avoid the eyes!).
3. Repeat every 4 hours while outdoors and make a fresh batch every 2 weeks.



Pest Hacks: One of Karen's favorite ways to safeguard her dogs against pests is to put an all-natural pest spray on bandanas so that it doesn't leave their coats stinky or sticky. Know that no matter how you treat your dog against pests, though, **you should always use a comb to check them for ticks and fleas when they come inside.** Fleas are a nuisance that can cause tapeworms or flea allergy dermatitis, and you can remove them with a flea shampoo (see page 262) or flea comb. But ticks can be life-threatening, so check behind their ears, in their paw pads, under their legs, and anywhere else that ticks like to burrow. No pesticide or natural deterrent is 100 percent effective.