
Information for You About Your Pet About: Ticks

If you have received this, we have found ticks on your pet, and are concerned about your pet's health. We'd like to give you some information about ticks, their dangers, and what you can do.

Why are Ticks Harmful to Your Pet?

Dogs can contract Lyme disease from ticks. Ticks can also carry canine ehrlichiosis, canine anaplasmosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, diseases often mistaken for other conditions and not accurately diagnosed without a trip to the vet. When ticks attach, their saliva enters the blood and that spreads the disease.

Life Cycle: A tick will attach to your pet (or you) to feed on blood. After 1-2 days of gorging, it's sac will fill with blood. Once it's full, a female tick drops off to lay 1,000s of eggs to create new ticks.

Dealing with Ticks: The best way to prevent ticks is to avoid low-lying shrubbery or high grass. Yard sprays can decrease the number of ticks in the yard, but the only way to completely control them is by also cutting back shrubs and grass. Flea control products for the yard will help with ticks. Ticks can only reproduce outside, and they die quickly if they don't attach. However, they can move from a dog to a human or furniture. This means you don't need to worry about treating the house, but be aware that they can definitely be shared between dogs and other family members.

The best way to remove a tick is by grasping it as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and gently pulling. Pull slowly, straight out, and the tick should come off with a small piece of skin. This means you have gotten the entire proboscis, which is the mouth-like organ used for feeding. If you don't get the head out, the risk of infection is still extremely small and can usually be prevented with a little triple antibiotic cream applied to the area. **Do not try** to burn it with a match, drown or smother it. Remember, the saliva is the dangerous part, and anything you do that irritates the tick is going to cause the tick to inject much more saliva into your pet. You want to get that tick out before it even knows something is going on. Call your vet if the bite stays red and seems to be getting worse.

Drop the Tick Into Alcohol to Kill: Ticks are survivors and can survive just about anything, including drowning in water. However, alcohol is a poison. Drop the entire tick into alcohol and in about 2 minutes they should be toast.