



PROTECTING YOUR PETS FROM TICKS

1 TICKS

- Ticks are parasites that feed on the blood of their host:
 - Whether it's a human or an animal.
- **Most active seasons:**
 - Late spring & summer.
 - Once temperatures reach 45 degrees and above, ticks will become most active.
- **Commonly found:**
 - In wooded areas or tall brush/grass.
- While they are small, they are still visible to the naked eye.
- **Carriers of disease:**
 - Capable of transmitting diseases via their bite.
- The Midwest is home to a diverse population of ticks, including the:
 - Deer (or Black-Legged) Tick, American Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick & Brown Dog Tick.



2 TRANSMISSION

- Ticks are found on the tips of grasses & shrubs.
- Ticks can "hitch a ride" on your pets:
 - They quickly let go of the vegetation they're hanging onto & crawl onto a host (i.e., an animal or person) when a plant is brushed-up against.
- Some ticks will transfer from pets to humans by falling off in your home when a pet comes inside.

3 COMPLICATIONS

- After removing the tick, monitor the bite area for the next few weeks for any signs of infection (or) tick-borne illness.
 - *Example:* redness or inflammation.
- Following a tick bite, signs may not appear for 7-21 days or longer.
- Observe your pet for changes in behavior or appetite.
- If infection occurs, bring your pet (and the tick) to your veterinarian for evaluation.
 - If the tick is kept after removal, your veterinarian may be able to perform tests at the lab to identify possible diseases.



4 SYMPTOMS

- *Call your veterinarian immediately if your pet displays these symptoms following a tick bite.
 - Fever
 - Fatigue/Lethargic
 - Reduced/loss of appetite
 - Lameness (limping), stiffness, or joint swelling
 - *Note:* Tick paralysis
 - Skin irritation or infection

WHERE TO CHECK FOR TICKS:

Inside & around the ears

Near the eyelids

Under the collar & around the neck.

Under the front legs



Note: ticks can be found anywhere on your pet's body. Be sure to check them daily for ticks; especially during warm seasons!

Around the tail

Between the back legs

Between the toes



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5 TICK REMOVAL

TIP: Remove the Tick Immediately:

- Time is of the essence!
- It can take several hours for an attached tick to transmit disease.

• Put rubber gloves on:



- Safety Tip: this ensures that you won't have direct contact with the tick, blood, or the pet's bite area.



- Using fine-tipped tweezers:
 - Grasp as close to the animal's (your pet's) skin as possible.
 - This helps reduce the possibility of the head detaching from the body upon removal.



- Pull the tick straight upwards:
 - Do this gently, but firmly.

DO NOT:

- Twist or jerk the tick.
- Doing so could cause the mouth parts of the tick to break off & remain embedded in your pet's skin.
- This can increase the chances of infection.



- Place the tick in a jar:
 - Preserving it in rubbing alcohol for identification.
 - Label the container:
 - Time & Location on pet where bite occurred.



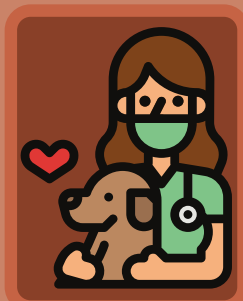
- Disinfect & Sterilize:
 - Disinfect the bite area.
 - Apply antiseptic to the bite area.
 - Sterilize your tweezers.
 - Wash your hands with soap & water.

6 PREVENTION



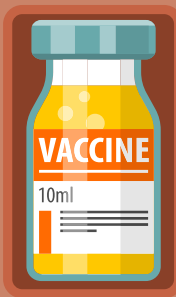
- Check for ticks daily:
 - Especially after spending time outdoors.

- Use veterinarian recommended tick control products:
 - Your veterinarian can make specific recommendations as to which tick prevention product is most ideal for your pet.



NOTE:

- Cats are extremely sensitive to a variety of chemicals.
 - Consult your veterinarian prior to applying a tick preventative to your cat.



- Dogs can be vaccinated against Lyme Disease
 - Which is transmitted by Deer Ticks



- Avoid tick-infested areas:
 - Walk in the center of trails, away from plants.



- Ensure a tick-free lawn:
 - Regularly mowing the lawn to keep grass short.
 - Removing tall weeds.

NOTE:

- Make your property inhospitable to rats & mice.
 - Rodents tend to carry/transmit ticks.

FINAL REMINDERS:

As ticks can infect both humans and animals, tick control is therefore a key aspect of preventing the spread of bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause serious illnesses.

If you find a tick on your pet, timely removal is imperative.

If you are having trouble removing the tick, or the mouthparts break off, consult your veterinarian.

Once mild temperatures arise, you should consult your veterinarian about treating outdoor pets with a tick preventative (i.e., topical ointments, oral medications, vaccines, tick collars, etc).