

Some Facts About Ticks...



Tick populations usually surge in the early spring, well ahead of the peak flea season, which usually occurs in the late summer. Keeping your lawn well mowed and avoiding wooded or tall grassy areas may reduce you and your pet's chances for picking up ticks. A solitary tick can usually be safely removed with tweezers by grasping it carefully at the head (which is attached to the surface of the skin) and applying slow and steady traction. Try not to squeeze the body of the tick or handle the tick with your bare hands. As always, consult with your veterinarian on tick prevention and removal recommendations.

Tick Facts:

- Adults have four pairs of legs
- Mouthparts are for piercing and sucking
- Ticks only meal is blood
- Ticks have been found everywhere in the world
- Ticks are pests to all animals including rattlesnakes, whales, and elephants
- They are bloodsucking ectoparasites which may transmit various infectious diseases to animals and man (Lyme disease)
- Two species: Soft Ticks (Argosidae)
Hard Ticks (Ixodidae) – most common
- Relative of the spider, require their hosts to reach maturity
- Can survive two years without feeding (adult)
- Adult tick feeds and mates on the host
- Female tick remains on the host for 6-30 days feeding on blood, drops off and lays up to 3,000 eggs, then dies
- Adult ticks can take in up to 600 mg of blood

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TICKS	LIFE CYCLE OF TICKS There are four stages in the development of ticks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritation due to feeding • Blood loss • Scratching, itching • Can parasitize humans 	<p>ADULT Nymphs engorge on blood then drop off the pet to develop into adult ticks</p> <p>EGGS Adult female engorges on blood then drops off the pet to lay eggs</p> <p>LARVA (seed tick) Female dies; thousands of eggs develop into 6-legged larvae</p> <p>NYMPH (yearling tick) Larvae engorge on blood then drop off the pet to develop into 8-legged nymphs</p>			
	<p><i>Most hard ticks (American dog tick and brown dog tick) take three hosts to complete all four stages, while feeding on a host the female is fertilized by the male. After feeding and mating the engorged female drops to the ground, deposits up to 3,000 eggs in a protected place and dies.</i></p>			
TICK LARVA	NYMPH (yearling tick)	ADULT TICK	BROWN DOG TICK	AMERICAN DOG TICK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six legged • Seeks a separate host • Goes through a succession of feeding and molting stages • Drops off host, molts, becomes nymph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight legged • Seeks separate host • Engorges, drops off host and molts to adult stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks own host • Repeats reproductive cycle • Can survive for up to two years without feeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most cosmopolitan species • Dog is principal host • Will also host on cattle, horses and man • A three host tick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely distributed in North America • Nymphs feed on rodents • Adults attack dog, man, cattle, horses, large mammals • Carries rocky mountain spotted fever and tularemia

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the best products to use to kill ticks on my pet?

Products labeled to kill ticks will be effective, but some formulations work faster or last longer than others. It can take as long as one to two days for a tick to die, once exposed to the active ingredients in a product. The quickest way to kill ticks is to expose them directly to a wet product like a shampoo or spray. While collars or topical spot type products may kill ticks a bit more slowly, they provide the longest-term protection, from one month to several months depending on the product.

Where does my pet usually pick up ticks?

Ticks can be found in a variety of places, but they are most prevalent in thickly vegetated areas outdoors. Many of the places we take our pets for recreation, like parks, wooded areas and even our own backyards can be hotbeds for tick infestation. They are often found on vertical surfaces, like the sides of fences, trees or tall grass. Ticks can then easily attach themselves to a pet or person who is passing by.

What can I do to help prevent a tick infestation?

Products that kill and repel ticks are extremely helpful in reducing the number of ticks your pet may pick up. In most cases, effective tick control will not be achieved unless both the pet and its environment are properly treated. Avoiding woody or grassy tick habitats will reduce your pet's chances of encountering ticks. Checking your pet regularly for ticks will give you the best chance of finding and removing them before they can cause a problem. In addition, keeping your yard well mowed and clear of woodpiles, leaves and other debris will help reduce the tick population. Heavily vegetated and moist, woody areas around your home can be a haven for ticks.

Do Vet-Kem® products kill the Lyme disease carrying tick?

All Vet-Kem® products that are labeled to kill ticks will kill the deer tick, the major carrier of Lyme disease. Tick control products are highly useful in preventing tick infestations. However, it's still a good idea to conduct regular tick checks on your pet, and avoid tall grass and wooded areas, if possible.

It is important to note that Lyme disease may still be transmitted by infected ticks before a product has been able to kill the tick.

I have treated my pet and the ticks are not falling off. What is going on?

Ticks may take anywhere from a few minutes to a few days to die. Attached ticks take longer to die and detach than unattached ticks, which usually die more quickly. Ticks also die more quickly if they are saturated directly with a "wet" product such as an on-animal spray or shampoo.

Does (S)-Methoprene kill tick eggs?

No. Ticks, along with spiders, mites and scorpions, belong to the Arachnid family and will not be affected by (S)-Methoprene or any other insect growth regulator. The best way to prevent tick eggs from hatching is to protect both your pet and your home environment from adult tick infestation.

Will using two products on my pet kill ticks faster?

Using two insecticide products on your pet, at the same time, will not kill ticks twice as fast. Each product is designed to contain just the right dosage of active ingredient to kill the ticks that come in contact with your pet. In general, ticks die more quickly if saturated directly with a "wet" product such as an on-animal spray or shampoo. If you are continually seeing ticks, this usually means that there are infestations in your home, yard or other areas that your pets frequent. Controlling the infestation, while killing the existing adults, will provide your pets with quicker relief and long lasting protection.

How often should I bathe my pet for tick control?

When ticks are first seen, bathing with a flea and tick shampoo will often provide quick relief. Repeat every 7 to 10 days, if necessary, for adult tick relief. Shampooing will quickly kill unattached adult ticks, but may take longer to kill ticks which may have already become attached. Once the lather is rinsed, it will not continue to kill any new adult ticks that crawl on your pet. For longer-term protection, we recommend following up with another product, like a collar or on-animal spray. These products will provide continuing control of any adult ticks that your pet may pick up. It's usually not necessary to shampoo the pet again when following up with another product.

What areas of my home should I treat for ticks?

It's important to be very thorough when treating because ticks can move around a house quite easily. Treat all carpeting and upholstered furniture with Vet•Kem premise control products. Ticks often hide in the crevices and underneath furniture, as well in the baseboards. They climb vertically, so it's important to treat the sides and backs of upholstered furniture. You may also see ticks on walls and other smooth, vertical surfaces. Check these surfaces, and remove ticks in any places you are not able to spray. Pay special attention to closets, storage places and other areas where ticks can hide under or behind objects.

How long will it take to get rid of ticks in my home?

Once ticks infest a home, it can take several weeks to get the problem under control. Even if you're consistently using a tick control product on your pet, you may see ticks from time to time. It's very easy for pets to pick up ticks from infested areas indoors, as well as outdoor environments that we cannot control. You can help prevent re-infestation of the home by using tick control products on your pet throughout the entire season.