

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM TICKS AND LYME DISEASE



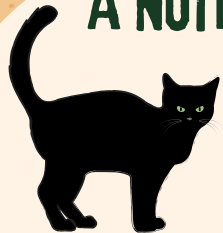
Lyme disease is spread by the bite of an infected tick. These ticks are found in all 50 states and throughout the world, and often near areas with trees, shrubs, tall grass, or piles of leaves.

THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOUR PET AGAINST LYME DISEASE IS BY AVOIDING TICK BITES:

- Check your pet after being outdoors.
- Carefully remove attached ticks immediately with fine-point tweezers or specific tick-removing tool and wash the bite area with soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Talk to your veterinarian about year-round tick prevention products for pets and Lyme disease vaccines for dogs.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard.

IMPORTANT: Keeping a pet indoors does not prevent infection.

A NOTE ABOUT CATS:



Lyme disease is not a typical concern for cats. Although the bacteria that cause Lyme disease can infect cats, the disease has never been seen outside a laboratory setting.

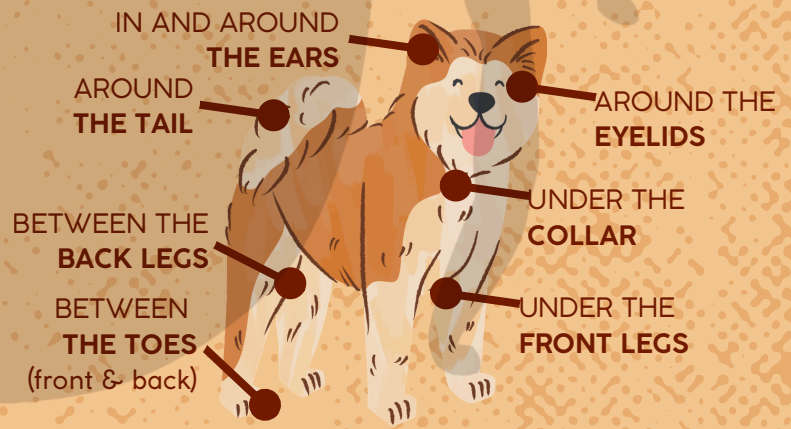
IMPORTANT: Cats are extremely sensitive to many chemicals. Do not apply tick prevention products to your cat without first asking your veterinarian.

COMMON SIGNS OF INFECTION:

- Fever
- Lethargy
- Joint Pain
- Swelling
- Loss of Appetite
- Kidney Failure

IMPORTANT: Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7-21 days after a tick bite so watch your dog closely if you suspect your pet has been bitten by a tick.

WHERE TO CHECK FOR TICKS:



THE FOLLOWING IS A CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE BY DR. NICOLE GRABLE, OWNER OF PET SET GO MOBILE VETERINARY CLINIC AND VETERINARY SURGEON AT TAILS OF HOPE NON-PROFIT SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC.



As the days grow longer and warmer weather arrives, spring becomes an exciting time for pets and their owners. Opportunities abound for outdoor adventures and fresh air! However, spring also brings unwanted visitors such as ticks. These tiny parasites can cause a variety of health issues, from skin irritation to serious diseases like Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis. Keeping your pet healthy in the spring requires preventive care, with a strong focus on tick control.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS OF TICKS

Ticks are external parasites that latch onto animals and humans to feed on their blood. They are most active in warm and humid conditions, making spring a peak season for infestation. Pets that spend time in wooded areas, tall grass, or even backyards shared with wildlife are at risk of encountering ticks. These parasites can transmit harmful diseases, some of which can be life-threatening if left untreated. Lyme disease, one of the most common tick-borne illnesses, can cause joint pain, fever, lethargy, and even kidney failure in pets. Other tick-borne diseases, such as ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis, can lead to severe health complications.

PREVENTING TICK INFESTATIONS

1. Use Tick Preventatives

The best way to protect your pet from ticks is by using veterinarian-approved tick preventatives. These come in various forms, including topical treatments, oral medications, and collars. Consistently applying these preventatives throughout the spring, summer, and fall is crucial for keeping ticks at bay.

2. Perform Regular Tick Checks

After outdoor activities, thoroughly inspect your pet for ticks. Pay close attention to areas like the ears, under the collar, between the toes, and around the tail. If you find a tick, use fine-tipped tweezers to remove it carefully, grasping it as close to the skin as possible and pulling it out steadily. Avoid crushing the tick, as this can increase the risk of disease transmission.

3. Keep Your Yard Tidy

Ticks thrive in tall grass, dense vegetation, and leaf litter. Keeping your yard well-maintained can significantly reduce tick habitats. Regularly mow the lawn, trim bushes, and clear away debris. Creating a barrier of wood chips or gravel between wooded areas and your lawn can also help deter ticks from migrating into your pet's play area.

4. Avoid High-Risk Areas

Whenever possible, stick to well-maintained trails when walking your dog, rather than venturing into overgrown fields or wooded areas. If your pet must roam in tick-prone environments, consider using pet-safe tick repellents for extra protection.

5. Maintain Routine Vet Visits

Your veterinarian can recommend the best tick prevention plan tailored to your pet's lifestyle and risk level. Regular check-ups and yearly screening can also help catch any tick-related illnesses early, increasing the chances of successful treatment. Talk to your veterinarian about the Lyme vaccine for your canine friend to decrease the chance of active infection should your pet come in contact with a tick or experience a tick bite.

ADDITIONAL SPRINGTIME HEALTH TIPS

In addition to tick prevention, springtime pet care should include protection against fleas, heartworms, and seasonal allergies. Flea infestations tend to rise in warmer months, and heartworms—spread by mosquitoes—can be fatal if left untreated. Allergies caused by pollen and molds can also affect pets, leading to itching, skin infection, sneezing, and ear infections. Monitoring your pet's health closely and addressing any unusual symptoms with your vet can ensure a happy and healthy season.

CONCLUSION

Spring is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors with your pet, but it's important to take precautions against seasonal health risks, especially ticks. By using preventatives, checking for ticks regularly, and maintaining a clean environment, you can safeguard your pet's health and ensure they make the most of the season. Stay vigilant, stay informed, and enjoy the beauty of spring!