

Welcome to the County

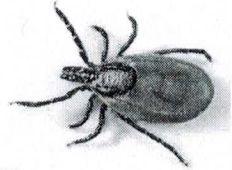
We would like to welcome you to Prince Edward County! Thank-you for visiting us here, we promise you that you will not be disappointed; however, we do have pesky little friends known as TICKS here.

Types of Ticks:

- Deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)
- The American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

Where do you find them:

- The Deer tick is the MOST common tick seen within the County. These ticks are usually found in wooded areas along trails. The larvae and nymphs are active in the spring and early summer; adults may be active in both the spring and fall. The deer or black-legged tick can transmit LYME disease to dogs and humans.
- The American dog tick can be found in a waiting position on grass or other low vegetation along roads, paths, and trails. As an animal passes by, the tick will crawl onto it and soon start feeding. The males remain on the host for an indefinite period of time alternately feeding and mating. The females feed, mate, become engorged, and then drop off the animal to lay their eggs. These ticks crawl in search of dogs or other animals for a blood meal.



What is Lyme disease?

- Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a type of bacterium.
- It is transmitted to dogs through the bite of a tick. Once in the blood stream, the Lyme disease organism is carried to many parts of the body and is likely to localize in joints or kidneys.
- Keep in mind, Lyme disease can affect people as well; however, people do not get it directly from dogs. They get it from being bitten by the same ticks that transmit it to dogs. Therefore, preventing exposure to ticks is important for you and your dog.
- A tick must be attached for 36-42 hours before it can transmit the bacterium to your pet.
- Most dogs are able to clear the infection; however, some go on to develop clinical signs which may include generalized pain, shifting leg lameness, in-appetence, and fever.
- If the bacterium affects the kidneys, however, signs can include the kidneys include vomiting, lethargy, anorexia (lack of appetite), and weight loss. The kidney form of the disease is less common, but often fatal.

How can I prevent ticks from getting on my dog?

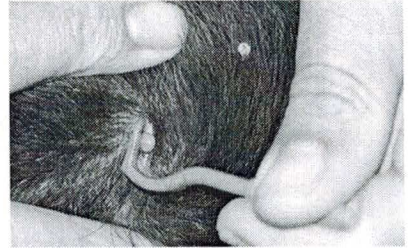
- Walk them in high traffic areas that are well maintained.
- Check them over before and after a walk for ticks and remove any if present.
- Use a monthly tick preventative available through your Veterinarian
 - Advantix®
 - Bravecto® has been developed and lasts for 3 months
 - Nexgard®

Is there anything else I can do to protect my pet from Lyme disease:

- YES! There are multiple different effective vaccines available for protecting your dogs against Lyme disease.

How do I remove the tick from my dog?

- Use a TICK TWISTER, or fine tipped tweezers if you have too.
- Limit your own contact with the tick by using gloves or a paper towel as infectious agents may be contracted through mucous membranes or breaks in the skin.
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible. This reduces the possibility of the head detaching from the body upon removal.
- If using the Tick Twister: Gently spin the twister until the tick detaches then pull away from the skin.
- If using Tweezers: Pull the tick straight out with a steady, even pressure until the tick detaches itself which may take a minute or two.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite area and wash your hands with soap and water.
- Home remedies such as applying petroleum jelly or grease, or touching the rear of the tick with a hot match do not work effectively and are not recommended. These techniques cause the tick to salivate and can actually increase the chance of getting a disease.
- To kill the tick, place it in a container with rubbing alcohol.



Handout courtesy of:

