



# TICK CONTROL: What Every Pet Owner Should Know

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## What Are Ticks?

Ticks are not insects — they are arachnids, closely related to spiders and mites. Adult ticks have **8 legs** (unlike insects, which have 6) and **no antennae**.

Ticks are highly efficient disease carriers. They attach firmly to their host, feed slowly over several days, and often go unnoticed.

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## How Do Ticks Affect Pets and People?

Ticks feed on the blood of mammals, birds, and sometimes reptiles. Pets and people can pick up ticks while walking through grassy, shrubby, or wooded areas. Ticks do **not jump or fly**—they crawl and wait for a host to brush past.

Some ticks can carry **dangerous diseases**, including:

- **Lyme disease**
  - **Ehrlichiosis**
  - **Rocky Mountain spotted fever**
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## The Tick Life Cycle

Ticks go through **4 life stages**:

1. **Egg**
2. **Larva** (6 legs)
3. **Nymph** (8 legs)
4. **Adult**

Female ticks lay **3,000–6,000 eggs** on the ground, usually after feeding. Depending on the species, the full life cycle may take **2 months to 3 years**.

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## How Your Dog Picks Up Ticks

Ticks wait on the edges of grass, shrubs, and trails. When a host walks by, they grab on and crawl to a feeding spot — often around the ears, neck, or between the toes.

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## Common Tick Species in North America

### 1. American Dog Tick

- Brown with white markings.
- Adults feed on dogs, humans, and other large animals.
- Can live over a year without food!
- Most active in spring.

### 2. Lone Star Tick

- Female has a single white dot; males have white spots.
- Found in woods and brushy areas.
- All stages bite dogs and humans.
- Most active from **March to August**.

### 3. Deer or Blacklegged Tick

- Reddish-brown and smaller than dog ticks.
- Can transmit **Lyme disease** and **ehrlichiosis**.
- Found in wooded areas, active in **spring and fall**.

### 4. Brown Dog Tick

- Reddish-brown, thrives **indoors**.
  - Found in homes and kennels, especially in warm climates.
  - Lays eggs in cracks, under furniture, or on drapes.
  - Feeds almost exclusively on dogs.
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### **Preventing Ticks on Your Pet**

- Use a **veterinarian-approved preventative** year-round.
  - We recommend **Vectra 3D**, a topical treatment that repels and kills ticks.
  - Avoid walking dogs through heavy brush or tall grass.
  - Keep your yard well-trimmed and remove leaf litter or debris.
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### **What To Do If You Find a Tick**

#### **DO:**

- Use tweezers or gloves to remove the tick.
- Grasp the tick close to the skin and pull steadily **straight out**.
- Clean the area and your hands with soap and water.
- Save the tick in alcohol with the date and location.

#### **DON'T:**

- Don't twist or crush the tick.
- Don't apply grease, heat, or petroleum jelly.

- Don't handle ticks with bare fingers — infections can spread through cuts or mucous membranes.

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### **Watch for Symptoms After a Tick Bite**

Seek medical or veterinary care if you or your pet show signs like:

- Fever
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Lameness
- Skin rash (in humans)



### **Year-Round Protection Is Key**

Ticks can be active **any time temperatures are above 45°F** — even in winter! Stay consistent with prevention and keep your pet protected all year long.

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### **Questions? Need Help Identifying a Tick?**

Contact us for assistance or more information on local tick species and prevention strategies.