


What You Should Know!

Lyme Disease

Top Ten Facts About Lyme Disease You Need to Know

- * Dogs do not get the typical “bull’s eye” rash often seen in people.
- * Dogs may not show clinical signs of infection for up to six months.
- * Infected dogs may show no signs of disease or signs may be so subtle, they may not be noticed.
- * Not all  hard bodied ticks will be infected with lyme.
- * In the **USA**, human cases of lyme disease have been reported in all 50 states.



- * A tick must feed for at least 50 hours before it can transmit lyme.
- * Even when treated, a lyme positive dog might never be able to completely clear the infection.
- * Vaccination is an effective and safe method for helping to prevent lyme disease.
- * Lyme positive dogs are not thought to acquire natural immunity; they can probably still be reinfected.
- * Preventing lyme disease is better than trying to treat it.



Risk Assessment

Ask yourself the following questions and remember that Lyme disease remains PRIMARILY a problem in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic.

- = Does my dog live in a Lyme endemic area?
- Has my dog been bitten by a tick in the past?
- Do I take my dog out for walks?
- Does my dog go outside in a yard, park or woods?
- Does my dog like to go into brush, tall grass and/or leaves?
- Are there deer in my neighborhood?
- Do I check my dog to ticks after it has been outdoors?
- Have I had another dog or family member previously diagnosed with Lyme disease?

Three Keys to the Prevention of Lyme Disease

Tick Control



Ticks live on brush, tall grasses and fallen leaves.

They do not jump out of trees. Keep lawns trimmed, cutting back vegetation and removing dead leaves - this will help reduce tick habitats.

Spot on treatments like Frontline and Advantix should be used on animals **ONLY** as directed by the package. Ask us if you have any questions.

Once daily, preferably immediately after coming indoors, animals should be checked for ticks. Owners should run hands through fur to feel for ticks and should pay special attention to the skin around the head and ears, as well as areas with folds, such as between toes.

Vaccination

All puppies should begin vaccinations and any adult dogs that are not vaccinated should be tested and treated if positive or vaccinated if negative.

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Tick Removal and Disposal

The best way to remove a tick is with fine-pointed tweezers. Grab as closely to the skin as possible and pull straight back, using steady but gentle force. In addition:

Do not use your fingers to remove the tick.

Do not twist the tick, which can cause breakage, leaving part of its body in your skin.

Do not crush, prick, or burn the tick, which may cause it to salivate or regurgitate infected fluids.

Do not try to smother the tick with products such as petroleum jelly or mineral oil. Ticks can store enough oxygen to complete feeding.

Place the tick in a sealed container or small plastic bag and deposit in the trash. James Herrington, MPH, Public Health Education Specialist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says that the humidity ticks need to survive is lacking inside a plastic bag. Do not flush ticks down the toilet because they can easily survive in water.

