



TICKS: A Dog Owner's Guide

THE PROBLEM

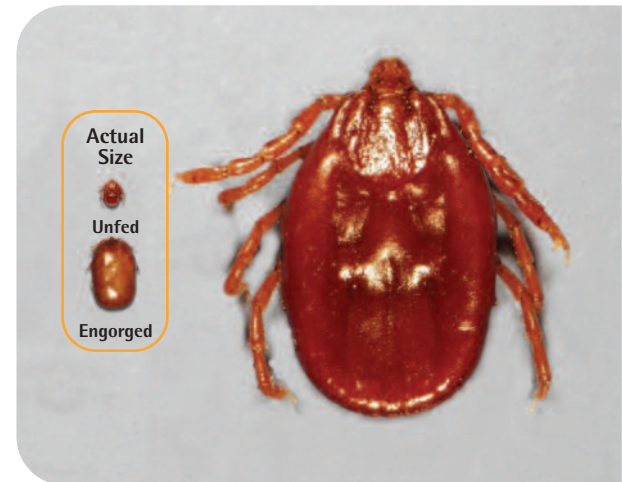
Ticks are potentially dangerous parasites commonly found throughout North America. Contrary to popular belief, ticks do not jump onto hosts or drop out of trees. Instead, they climb onto grass, bushes, or other low-lying vegetation and wait for an animal or person to brush against them.

Ticks obtain all their nourishment from the blood of their hosts, which commonly include dogs. They suck blood through mouth parts that they “cement” into their host’s skin when they bite.

Tick bites are usually painless. After the tick attaches to a host, which could be a person or a pet, any infection that it potentially could be carrying may be transmitted via its saliva as it feeds on the host.

Diseases that ticks can transmit include the following:

- ▶ **Lyme Disease** is associated with a wide range of chronic problems throughout the body. Lameness is one of the most common signs in dogs with the disease.
- ▶ **Rocky Mountain spotted fever** can cause major organ failure and death. As its name suggests, one of the most common signs is fever as well as bleeding.
- ▶ Although once considered rare, **ehrlichiosis** is becoming an increasing concern in the United States. The disease causes a decrease in platelet counts in the blood and subsequent bleeding problems.



The brown dog tick is found throughout North America.

(Photo courtesy of Drs. M.W. Dryden and P.A. Payne.)

PREVENTION FIRST

While treatment for these diseases is available, preventing ticks from attaching by repelling them is important to help minimize the transmission of disease-causing organisms. Talk with your veterinarian about which product can both repel and kill ticks.

Ask your veterinarian about K9 Advantix™, a monthly, easy-to-apply topical solution that repels and kills fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes.



K9 ADVANTIX™ for use on dogs only.

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