All about Ticks

With tick-borne diseases on the rise, protecting yourself and your family from ticks is important. By being aware and taking steps to prevent tick bites, you can enjoy the outdoors.

Ticks can be active all year long

Tick habitat is in shady, damp, brushy, wooded areas including shrubs and gardens. Deer ticks can be active even in the winter when temps are above freezing and if there is a break in the snow cover. Nymph stage ticks are found mostly at ground level. Adult stage ticks can be found up to a couple of feet off of the ground on vegetation.

Cape Cod ticks

Deer Tick
Also called blacklegged ticks, they can transmit the pathogens that cause Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and relapsing fever.

Lone Star Tick
They can transmit the pathogens that cause Ehrlichiosis, STARI, and tularemia. In addition, the bite can cause an allergy to red meat consumption.

Dog Tick
These can transmit the pathogens that cause tularemia and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Don't get bit!

You found a tick. Now what?
Stay calm! You want to remove the tick immediately and correctly. Grab some tweezers and antiseptic. Using pointy tweezers, grasp tick by the head and pull straight up. Avoid twisting. Store the tick in a baggie and date it. This will allow you to identify the tick, send it off for testing, and inform your doctor of when the bite occurred. After removing tick apply antiseptic to bite area.

Don't forget your pets!

Does your dog or cat spend time outdoors? Then you should be checking them for ticks. To reduce the chances that a tick will transmit disease to you or your pets:

- Check your pets for ticks daily.
- Tick control products such as topicals and collars are available. Note, some products should not be used on cats. Speak with a pet store manager or veterinarian.
- A Lyme vaccine is available for dogs.

Vaccines are not available for all of the tick-borne diseases that dogs can get, and vaccines don’t keep the dogs from bringing ticks into your home. Do not apply any repellents to your cats without first reading at product directions!