



## Keeping Your Pets Safe From

# TICKS AND DISEASE



### Do Frequent and Thorough Tick Checks

Check in “hidden” areas too, like behind and in your pet’s ears and between toes.



### Ask Your Vet About Tick Prevention Products

Talk to your veterinarian about the numerous products and medications available to protect your pet from ticks. Be sure to do your own research.

### Get Your Pet Tested for Tick-Borne Diseases Annually

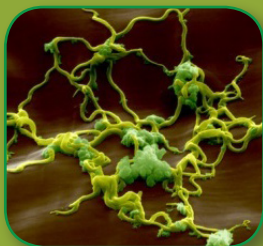
A simple screening test can tell you in minutes whether your pet has been exposed to tick-borne diseases. Blood tests might be falsely negative in the early stage of Lyme disease.



[www.natcaplyme.org](http://www.natcaplyme.org)

## How Do I Safely Remove a Tick?

- Grasp the tick as close as you can to your pet's skin with a pair of fine-tipped tweezers. Gently pull the tick straight out.
- Place tick in a zip lock bag to have it tested by a lab. Wash your hands and disinfect the bite site.
- Do not apply alcohol, nail polish, heat or petroleum jelly to the tick. Do not crush or twist it. These methods can lead to an increased risk of infection.



## What Diseases Can Ticks Transmit to Pets?

Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, bartonellosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and hepatozoonosis

## What Are the Symptoms of Tick-Borne Diseases in Pets?

Common symptoms for tick-borne diseases are lameness, fever, swollen joints, lack of energy, decreased appetite, vomiting and behavioral changes. Tick-borne diseases can cause kidney failure, heart disorders, and can be fatal.

## What About Treatment?

Treatment should be started as soon as possible to avoid late-stage disease and serious complications. Standard treatment for Lyme disease is AT LEAST four weeks of a broad-spectrum antibiotic and longer in severe cases or if symptoms persist.



## For more information contact:

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