

Important Medical Update Regarding Lyme Disease

There has been a dramatic increase in Ohio tick population in recent years, especially the blacklegged or “deer tick”. A study in 2011 showed established deer tick populations in 26 Ohio counties and 52 total counties where the deer tick had been found. These established populations are projected to spread into adjacent counties at the rate of one to two counties per year. Two other tick species found in Ohio, the American dog Tick and the Lone Star Tick are also associated with disease in humans and pets. The diseases of concern include: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme Disease and Ehrlichiosis.

To access your dog’s risk for tick exposure, do you:

- Live, travel or frequent outdoor areas that are wooded or grassy?
- Take your dog to the Metropark areas including Findley State Park?
- Go camping or hunting with your dog?

We recommend:

- Practice checking your pet and yourself for ticks after outdoor recreational activities.
- Tick protection for dogs year round. We can help you pick a product that best fits your needs (collar, topical or oral product).
- Surveillance Testing by submitting blood samples for our dog population will help determine how soon ticks move into our area. Dogs will be exposed before humans so they can serve as a warning for the rest of us. This test checks for antibodies to tick borne diseases and heartworm. Cost \$52.
- Vaccination against Lyme disease. We will review if this is appropriate for your dog based on their lifestyle and exposure risk.

Tick Identification is important

Tick Species	Typical Size		Distribution
	NYMPH	ADULT	
Deer/Black-Legged Tick	Small	Large	Northwest & Upper Midwest*
Western Black-Legged Tick	Small	Large	Northwest & West Coast
Brown Dog Tick	Small	Large	Midwest & Southeast**
Lone Star Tick	Small	Large	Throughout the U.S.*
American Dog Tick	Small	Large	Throughout the U.S.*
Gulf Coast Tick	Small	Large	Throughout the U.S.

*Adults & nymphs can transmit disease
**Tick images supplied by Armed Forces Pest Management Board, afpmh.org

DISEASE INFORMATION

These common tick species spread many diseases throughout the U.S.

- Deer Tick/Black-Legged Tick** (*Ixodes scapularis*)
Lyme Disease • Anaplasmosis
- Western Black-Legged Tick** (*Ixodes pacificus*)
Lyme Disease • Anaplasmosis
- Brown Dog Tick** (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)
Ehrlichiosis • Hepatozoonosis • Babesiosis
- American Dog Tick** (*Dermacentor variabilis*)
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Lone Star Tick** (*Amblyomma americanum*)
Ehrlichiosis • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Gulf Coast Tick** (*Amblyomma maculatum*)
Hepatozoonosis

How to Remove a Tick

1. Grasp the tick close to the skin with a pair of fine-tipped tweezers.
2. Pull the tick's body away from the skin. Avoid crushing the tick to prevent infection.
3. Clean your dog's skin with soap and warm water.

Visit www.LymeInfo.com to learn more about canine Lyme disease.

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For more information see these links: <http://www.capcvet.org>, <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>, and <http://www.dogsandticks.com>.

At Wellington Veterinary Clinic, we remain committed to preventive health care for the longest possible life for your pet.