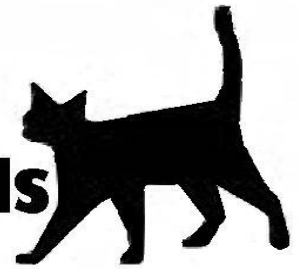




Lyme Disease and Your Furry Friends



Lyme Disease isn't limited to humans. Your furry friend is at just as great of a risk for contracting the tick-borne disease. As it heads into prime tick season, it is important to take preventive measures.

Tick Bite Prevention:

Keep away from grassy or wooded areas when walking or exercising your pet outdoors.

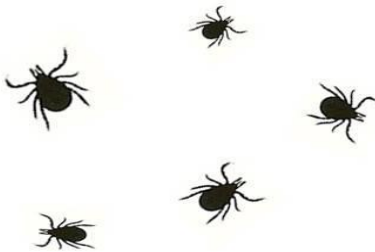
Check your pet regularly for ticks, especially after outdoor trips.

Remove tick promptly if you do find one.

Discuss an insecticidal bath with your veterinarian or groomer if you find several ticks on your dog.

Consult your veterinarian about treating your dog or cat with tick-killing pesticides (acaricides) or using tick collars. There are many pesticides aimed at preventing tick bites, but some people and animals may be sensitive to the chemicals they contain.

Consult your veterinarian about the vaccine (Lyme disease vaccine) available for dogs.



Removing a Tick:

1. Avoid folklore remedies such as "painting" the tick with nail polish or petroleum jelly, or using heat to make the tick detach from the skin. Your goal is to remove the tick as quickly as possible -not waiting for it to detach.
2. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
3. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
4. Disinfect site and tweezers with rubbing alcohol, then wash your hands with soap and water after removing the tick.

Symptoms of Lyme Disease in Pets:

Lyme disease in animals has similar symptoms as to those of Lyme disease in humans. Although you will not see a skin rash on your pet, they can experience a range of symptoms.

In dogs: Some infected dogs do not experience any symptoms of Lyme disease. Symptoms include lethargy, arthritis (displayed as joint pain, shifting from foot to foot, and lameness), fever, fatigue, and kidney damage. Symptoms can become chronic.



In cats: Though there is some debate about whether cats suffer from Lyme disease, cats are thought to be highly resistant to the disease.

Treatment of Lyme Disease in Pets:

You should consult your veterinarian about proper treatment for your pet.

Important Considerations:

Pet owners are at an increased risk for tick encounters, especially those who have animals that are permitted to go in and out of the home. Ticks that have not embedded in the animal may drop off in the home and will continue to seek a blood meal. For this reason, it is not advisable to let pets sleep in the same bed with family members.

For More Information Please Contact:

Ulster County Department of Health
(845) 334-5527

For more information on Lyme disease in humans visit:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>



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