

Is it a deer tick or a dog tick?

Tick facts

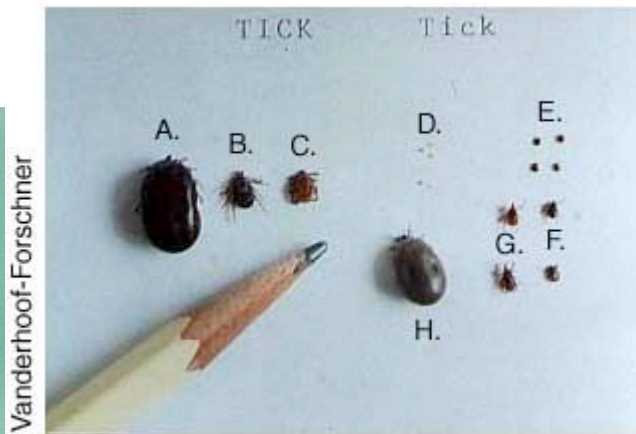
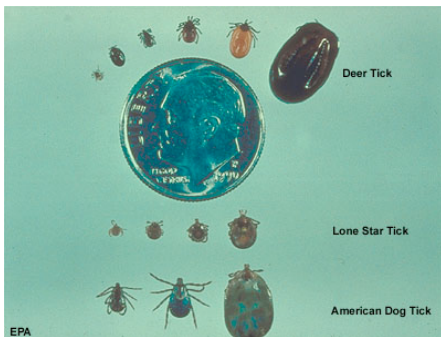
- *The adult female deer tick has a reddish-brown tear-drop shaped body with a black dorsal shield. The adult female dog tick has a dark brown body with a whitish, patterned dorsal shield.
- *Deer tick nymphs are the size of a poppy seed, adult deer ticks are the size of a sesame seed. Adult dog ticks are the size of a watermelon seed.
- *Ticks are generally found in brushy or wooded areas, near the ground.

How do I protect myself from tick bites?

- *Check yourself daily - favorite tick places include the legs, back of the knees, groin, armpit, and neck, along the hairline and behind the ears.
- *Wear long-sleeved light colored shirts and long pants tucked into your socks.
- *Stick to main pathways and the center of trails when hiking.
- *Use repellents that contain DEET on your clothes and exposed skin.

What should I do if I find a tick on myself?

- *Carefully remove it as soon as possible.
- *Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible.
- *Pull straight out with a steady gentle pressure, do not squeeze or twist.
- *Disinfect the bite site.
- *Do **NOT** apply kerosene, petroleum jelly, nail polish or a hot match tip to remove the tick.
- *Note the date and where on the body the tick was removed.
- *If you are unsure of the type of tick, save it for identification.
- *Notify your health care provider if you have been bitten by a deer tick or if you develop any unusual illness following a tick bite.



Ticks

Brown Dog Ticks

- A. Engorged Female
- B. Female
- C. Male

Black Legged (Deer)

- D. Larvae
- E. Nymphs
- F. Males
- G. Females
- H. Engorged Female

LYME DISEASE

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria that are spread by tiny infected ticks (deer ticks). It can affect both people and animals. The disease is most likely to be spread between late May and early autumn, when ticks are most active.

How is it spread?

Not all deer ticks are infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Ticks can become infected when they feed on small animals that are infected. The disease is spread when an infected tick bites a person and stays attached for a period of time. In most cases, the tick must be attached for more than 24 hours before the bacteria can be transmitted. So removing the tick promptly will greatly decrease the chances of becoming infected.

What are the symptoms?

Early stage (days to weeks): 60-80 % of cases, get a rash around the site of the tick bite – it may resemble a bull's eye or solid patch. Sometimes there are multiple rash sites. The rash can appear anywhere from 3 days to a month after the bite. Flu-like symptoms, such as chills and fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain, and swollen glands are also common in the early stages.

Later stages (months to years): IF Lyme disease is unrecognized or untreated in the early stages it may progress and have more severe symptoms – severe fatigue, joint pain, nervous system problems including meningitis, tingling, numbness and weakness of arms and legs or facial weakness/paralysis. These symptoms can alternate from mild to severe and last for months. The most severe symptoms may not appear until weeks, months or years after the tick bite; these can include chronic arthritis and heart and central nervous system problems.

How is it diagnosed?

It can be fairly easy to diagnose if the classic bull's eye rash is evident. But not everyone gets the rash. Without the rash it is much harder to diagnose because the symptoms resemble other diseases. A blood test can check for the antibodies to the Lyme disease bacteria.

How is it treated?

Early treatment of Lyme disease with antibiotics almost always results in a full cure. However, the chances of complete cure decrease if treatment is delayed.

LYME DISEASE ALERT

DO A THOROUGH BODY CHECK FOR TICKS AFTER BEING OUTDOORS.

How To Remove A Tick



- Using tweezers, grasp tick near the mouth parts, as close to skin as possible.
- Pull tick in a steady, upward motion away from skin.
- DO NOT use kerosene, matches, or petroleum jelly to remove tick.
- Disinfect site with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
- Record date and location of tick bite. If rash or flu-like symptoms appear contact your health care provider immediately.



Deer tick size (left to right)
larva, nymph, adult

DISEASE RISK IS REDUCED IF TICK IS REMOVED WITHIN 36 HOURS.

New York State Department of Health