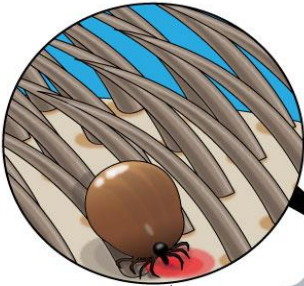


# Due to the high prevalence of **Lyme Disease** in Pennsylvania and Bucks County, Doylestown Veterinary Hospital recommends:

- **Yearly screening for Lyme Disease**
- **Vaccination against Lyme Disease**
- **Year-round tick preventative medication**

## The Tiny but Terrible Tick

The blood-sucking tick, commonly found in wooded environments, is not just a nuisance, it can also pass along potentially fatal diseases to both dogs and humans.



It takes five to six hours for a tick to become firmly attached and up to 10 days for it to become fully engorged with blood.

**Tick hot spots**

Ears  
Shoulders  
Upper leg areas


The female needs a blood meal in order to lay her eggs.

Tick bites on dogs may be hard to detect. Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7-21 days or longer after a tick bite.

**Tickborne diseases:**

- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Lyme disease
- Rickettsia Parkeri Rickettsiosis
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- STARI (Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness)
- Tickborne relapsing fever (TBRF)
- Tularemia
- 364D Rickettsiosis (new disease that has been found in California)

## Size Comparison



## Life Cycle of the Tick

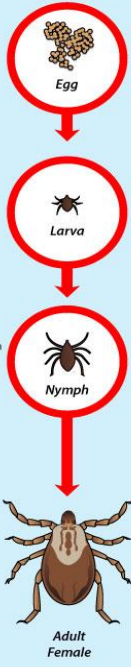
Ticks undergo three primary stages of development: *larval, nymphal, and adult*.

Up to 3,000 eggs are laid on the ground by an adult female tick.

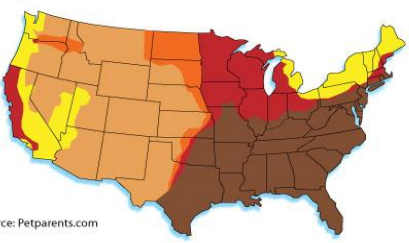
The larvae emerge to feed primarily on small mammals and birds.

After feeding, they detach from their host and molt to nymphs on the ground.

The nymphs feed on larger hosts and molt to adults. Female adults attach to larger hosts, feed, and lay eggs, while males feed very little and occupy larger hosts primarily for mating.



## Tick Presence by Species



Source: Petparents.com

## Preventing Ticks on Your Pets

It's important to use a tick preventive product on your dog as vaccines are not available for all the tick-borne diseases that dogs can get, and they don't keep the dogs from bringing ticks into your home.

### Protecting you and your pet

- Check your pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors.
- If found on your dog, remove the tick right away.
- Have veterinarian conduct a tick check at each exam.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tickborne diseases in your area.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard.
- Talk with your veterinarian about using tick preventives on your pet.

### Products for your pets

Do not apply any chemicals or repellents without first consulting your veterinarian.

- **Pesticide products** that kill ticks are known as acaricides. Acaricides that can be used on dogs include dusts, impregnated collars, sprays, or topical treatments.
- **Repellent products** may prevent the tick from coming into contact with an animal or have anti-feeding effects once the tick comes into contact with the chemical, preventing a bite.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SOURCES: PETSTRULY.COM, DOGTICKS.ORG, PETSAPARENT.COM  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

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