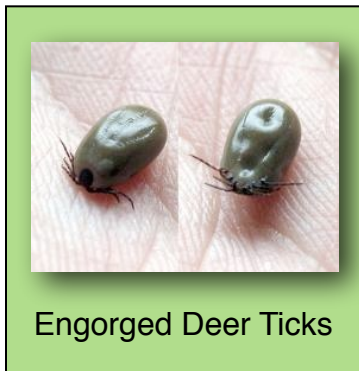


- Ticks are vectors for many diseases including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Ehrlichia
- Ticks are present in the environment anytime there is not full snow cover, and topical tick control is now recommended year-round, as ticks have been documented at temperatures as low as 24 degrees.
- The worst seasons for ticks are Spring (especially as the snow first starts to melt) & Fall.
- All species of wildlife and some birds are hosts for ticks but deer and mice are more commonly associated with Lyme disease.
- Ticks live primarily in tall grass and brushy areas (although they are present in smaller numbers in trimmed grass).
- Ticks are very difficult to kill. All products used to control ticks may have some failure and you may see ticks on your pet especially if it has been several weeks since the topical product was applied or your pet swims or is bathed regularly.
- In our practice, about 14% of dogs were exposed to Lyme disease in 2013 and that number is expected to rise in the next few years.
- The Companion Animal Parasite Council ([www.petsandpeople.org](http://www.petsandpeople.org)) recommends that all dogs be on topical tick control products.



Engorged Deer Ticks

## Products we recommend:

There are a number of good flea/tick products on the market now; please ask one of our vets if you have questions about any of them.

- Nexgard - This is a newer oral medication that so far has performed very well and is tolerated very well by dogs (a dog only product). It lasts 30 days.
- Bravecto - a 3 month oral product; we do not carry this but can order it for you
- Vectra 3D - This is one of the newer products; we have found it to be very effective and well-tolerated by dogs. This product should be used on DOGS ONLY.
- Advantix (not Advantage) - DOGS ONLY
- Seresto collar: effective, and lasts 8 months; dogs and cats
- All of these products are good for fleas also
- Over-the-counter products (i.e., from big box stores or pet stores) can be more toxic to dogs and potentially fatal to cats

## Tick Removal:

- Using tweezers/forceps or tick removal gadgets, hold onto the tick near the skin, apply gentle pressure until the tick comes loose.
- Try not to rupture the tick, as the body fluids may contain microorganisms that could enter a cut or abrasion on your hand.
- Clean tick site with alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or soap and water. Apply topical antibiotic if desired.
- A small bump is often found where the tick was attached. This is a tissue reaction from the saliva of the tick and will go away within a week or two.
- The sooner the tick is removed the better, since the the chance of disease transmission increases the longer the tick is attached.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, matches, alcohol, turpentine, etc. to try to back the tick out. They don't work and may be toxic.
- Brushing dogs and cats after going outside may help physically remove the ticks.

