



Preventing disease

Keep pets on monthly preventative treatments to prevent tick and mosquito-borne disease.

Keeping cats indoors reduces (but does not eliminate) their risk.

There are many products available to prevent Heartworm, fleas and ticks in pets. Consult with your veterinarian about what is recommended given your pet's age, breed, lifestyle, and health.

Always read and follow label guidelines and **do not use dog products on cats or vice versa!**

How to check your pet for ticks:

Ticks are most likely to attach on dogs around the neck, ears, armpits, groin, and between the toes. On cats: the neck and face.

Gently run your hands over your pet's body, feeling for tiny bumps. If you find a tick, remove it promptly: using a tweezers, grip close to the skin and pull upwards with a steady pressure.

Can I get sick from my pet?

You can't get a mosquito or tick-borne disease directly from your pet. But if your pet is diagnosed, it can be a sign that there are infected vectors in your backyard or places you frequent (like parks) placing you at risk. Take steps to protect yourself when going outdoors (wear repellents, perform tick checks, etc.)

Pets can also be a way infected ticks are brought inside your home—so using tick preventatives on your pet not only benefits them, but your whole family.

Visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's pages on:



[Safe use of flea and tick preventatives](#)



[Diseases pets can contract outdoors](#)



Contact Us!

Office of Mosquito Control
Tick-borne Diseases Program
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Keep Your Pets Healthy

Tick & Mosquito-borne
Diseases of Pets



Office of Mosquito Control

Tick-borne Diseases Program

A program of the Monmouth County
Board of County Commissioners

Dogs and Cats



Dogs



Brown dog tick infestation ('kennel ticks')

Spread by: Close quarters with other animals

Details: One of the only ticks that can live indoors and infest homes. In severe cases pets may become anemic; treated by killing and removing the ticks. Pesticide treatment of the home may also be required.



Heartworm

Spread by: Mosquitoes

Disease agent: Nematode worm, *Dirofilaria immitis*

Details: Damages heart and lungs. Symptoms include dry cough, difficulty breathing, lethargy, loss of appetite. Treatment difficult and the outcome depends on disease advancement.



West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE)

Spread by: Mosquitoes

Disease agent: Viruses

Details: While they can become infected, dogs and cats do not usually show signs of disease and recover quickly.



Anaplasmosis

Spread by: Blacklegged ticks

Disease agent: Bacteria, *Anaplasma spp.*

Details: Symptoms include fever, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing or labored breathing. Treatable with antibiotics.



Babesiosis

Spread by: Brown dog ticks (possibly others)

Disease agent: Protozoan parasites, *Babesia spp.* (related to malaria parasites)

Details: Symptoms include fever, weakness, pale gums, swollen lymph nodes, and depression. Treated with antiprotozoal medication; dogs remain sub-clinically infected and can suffer relapse.



Ehrlichiosis

Spread by: Lone star ticks, Brown dog ticks

Disease agent: Bacteria, *Ehrlichia spp.*

Details: Early symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, weight loss, swollen lymph nodes, and depression. If diagnosed early, treatable with antibiotics, but if untreated, chronic infection can develop and be life threatening.



Hepatozoonosis

Spread by: Ingesting an infected tick

Disease agent: Protozoan, *Hepatozoon spp.*

Details: Symptoms include loss of appetite, weight loss, lethargy.



Lyme disease

Spread by: Blacklegged ticks

Disease agent: Bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*

Details: Symptoms include fever, joint pain and swelling, loss of appetite, lethargy. Unlike humans, no "bulls eye" rash. Treatable with antibiotics. There is a vaccine for dogs.

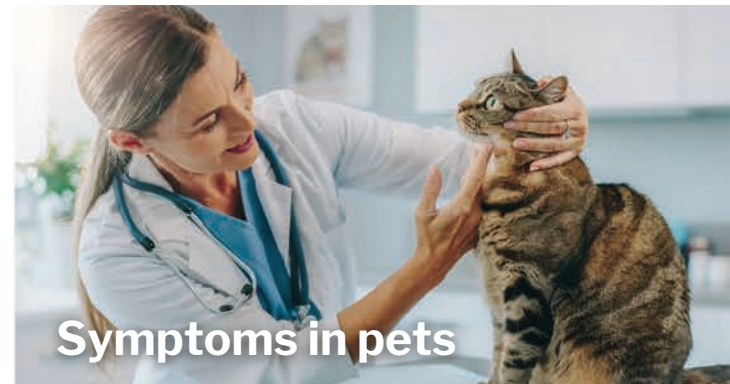


Spotted fever rickettsiosis

Spread by: American dog ticks, lone star ticks

Disease agent: Bacteria, *Rickettsia spp.*

Details: Symptoms include fever, joint pain, loss of appetite, depression, swollen limbs, or pinpoint-sized spots (may look like an allergic reaction). Treatable with antibiotics.



Symptoms in pets

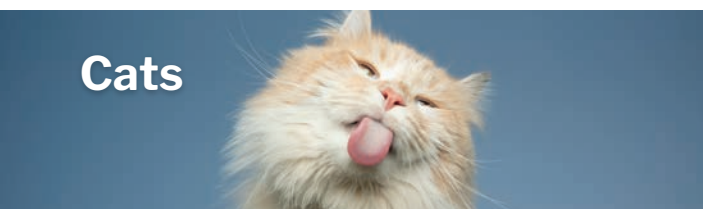
How to tell if your pet has a fever: Dogs and cats have slightly higher body temperatures than humans, so a human thermometer may not be accurate. Use a pet thermometer and follow instructions. If your pet has a temperature of 103°F or higher seek veterinary attention.

Check for swollen lymph nodes: Peripheral lymph nodes are located in pairs on the outside of your pet's body: under the angle of the jaw, in front of the shoulders, in the armpits behind the front legs, on the back legs behind the knees, and in the groin. Gently palpate with your fingers and feel for swelling which can indicate an infection.

Joint and muscle pain: Common signs of a tick-borne illness. Pets may walk stiffly or with a limp; shift weight between their legs, as if "walking on eggshells"; and be sensitive to touch. Sometimes animals will hide their pain and instead show signs of depression (see below).

Depression in animals: Changes in your pet's behavior such as becoming more withdrawn, less willing to play and socialize, less interested in food and treats, hiding, and lack of energy can all be signs that your pet is sick.

Cats



Cytauxzoonosis

Spread by: Lone star ticks

Disease agent: Protozoan, *Cytauxzoon felis*

Details: Symptoms include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and depression. Can be serious and difficult to treat.