

UK & Ireland – ticks can be active all year round in long grass, bracken, heather, woodland and hedgerows, especially where deer and livestock are present



BE TICK AWARE

Ticks can carry organisms which may cause physical and neurological illness in humans and animals



Prevention

- > Wear gaiters or long trousers tucked into socks
- > Use insect repellent
- > Check yourself for ticks regularly



Removing ticks

- > Wear surgical gloves
- > Use a tick-removal tool or fine-nosed tweezers
- > Disinfect the tick bite
- > Wash your hands afterwards
- > Make a note of the date and place of the bite
- > Contact your GP if you notice signs of a rash or flu-like symptoms

What NOT to use when removing ticks

- > Creams/petroleum jelly/oils/spirits/freezing agent/powders or other substances
- > Cigarettes/matches/lighter
- > Your fingers or teeth
- > Anything that squeezes the body of the tick

(All these methods may cause regurgitation / back-flow of infective fluids)

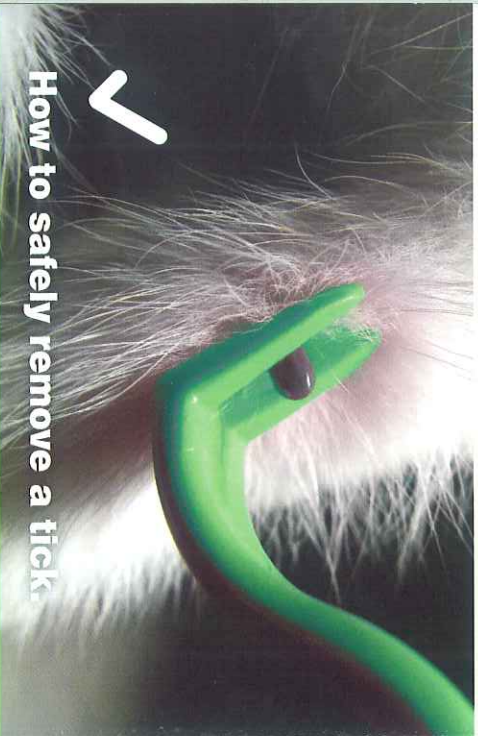


Do the tick check!

People often don't realise that most tick treatments don't repel ticks but kill them once they start to feed. You should still check for ticks and remove them even if they are dead.

Ticks often choose folds of skin or crevices, so examine your pet as thoroughly as possible. Brush against, as well as with, the hair-growth to part it so that any ticks may be seen. Check around and inside the ears, around the eyes and the muzzle, as well as between pads and toes. Unfed sub-adult ticks can often look like scabs or moles so pay attention to such areas.

Horses and ponies which are turned out can be vulnerable, and stabled animals may pick up ticks during a ride. It's a good idea to perform a tick check when untacking. Search areas such as under the mane, inside the ears and nostrils, around the chestnuts, the dock of the tail and on genitalia.



How to safely remove a tick

When using a tick removal tool, follow manufacturer's instructions. When using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and steadily pull the tick outwards without jerking or twisting.

Never squeeze the tick's body, burn, freeze, or smother it in substances such as petroleum jelly, spirits or oils. This is thought to induce back flow of infective agents.

"I feel that there
enough awareness
tick-borne disease
this country."

Ray Mears

RAY WEARS, BADA-UK Patron

Be tick aware

Cases of tick-borne disease risks are increasing. Keeping help to minimise those risks, ticks, you may be too. Visit c you can keep yourself and y protected.



www.bac

BADA-UK, PO Box 544, Wath upc

BADA-UK Registered charity No
Registered charity No
Company N



What are ticks?

Ticks are parasites, meaning they feed on the blood of a host (animal or human.) They are usually found in long grass, leaf litter and on low plants where they wait for a host. Ticks don't jump or fly. In a split second they climb on as the host brushes past, then look for a safe place to feed.

Special mouth parts and saliva allow the tick to fix itself securely into the skin, where it feeds for a number of days.

Most people only notice a tick on their pet once it has fed for several

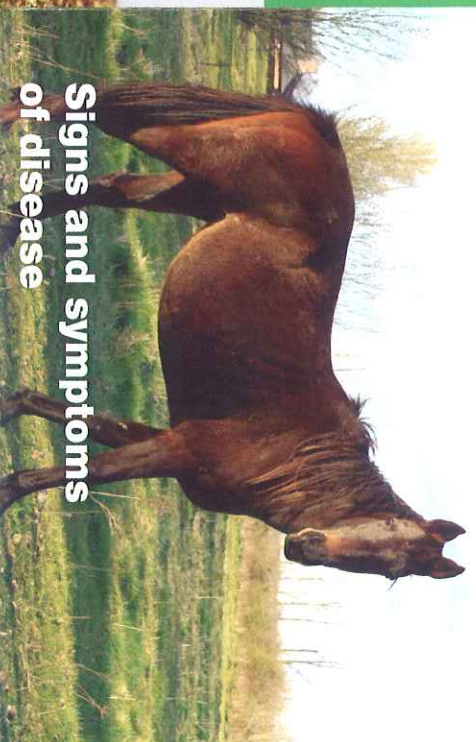
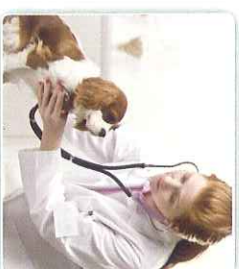


days; when it's fat with blood and protrudes through the pet's hair. By this time it can be as large as a coffee bean and vary in colour from pale pink or blue-grey to dark red or purple. Before feeding, ticks are flat, generally sesame-seed shaped and vary in size from 0.5mm up to about 3mm.

What do I need to know about ticks?

Factors such as changes in farming practices and the climate mean that there are now more ticks in our countryside and urban areas. A range of diseases can be transmitted from the tick's saliva as it feeds and the saliva itself can cause allergic reactions, making your pet unwell. It is therefore important to protect your pet from tick bites.

Borreliosis (Lyme disease), Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Bartonellosis and the Louping-ill Virus (LIV) are all tick-borne diseases present in the UK and Ireland.



Signs and symptoms of disease

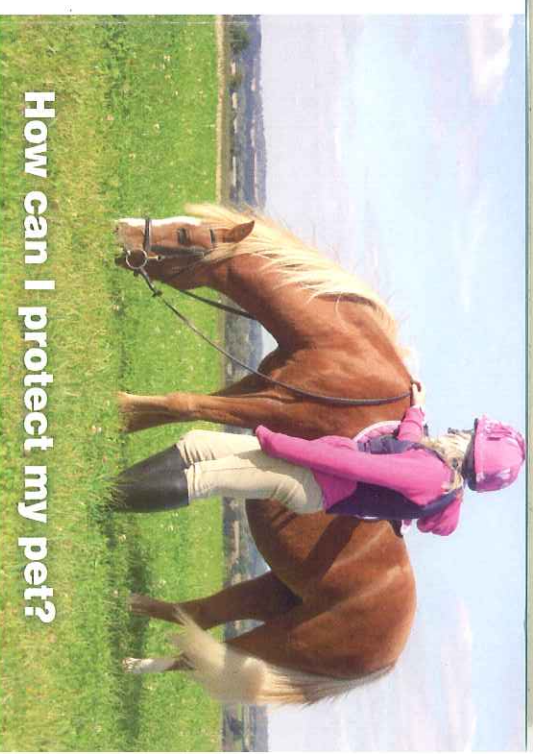
Symptoms of tick-borne disease can be non specific, making diagnosis difficult. They may include behavioural changes (e.g. depression, lethargy and loss of appetite), fever, swollen lymph nodes, inflamed joints and muscle stiffness. Cardiac symptoms can occur and neurological disease can cause a loss of co-ordination, seizures and paralysis. In horses, Laminitis can also be a complication of infection.

How can I protect my pet?

Not every tick is infected and not every bite will transmit disease. However, the longer the tick is allowed to feed, the more likely it is that an infection will result.

There are various licensed tick treatments available from your veterinary surgeon (such as spot-on or spray-on products, or chemically-treated collars). These may be unsuitable for pregnant or nursing animals and must only be used on healthy animals and under veterinary guidance. Not all products are safe for every type of animal. Cases of poisoning may occur when people mistakenly use a product on their pet which is intended for another type of animal.

Contact poisoning can also occur from treated soft furnishings (e.g. carpets and pet bedding). Cross-contamination may sometimes occur if a pet has close contact with another treated animal. Use caution if buying over-the-counter products without veterinary guidance (even if non-chemical) and always read the manufacturer's instructions carefully. It is always best to talk to your vet.



Where do ticks live?

There are usually more ticks in woodland and forest areas, but they can also be found in fields and parkland, especially where there are livestock and deer. However, ticks can also be present in town parks and gardens.

Ticks are more abundant in late spring to early summer, and again during autumn. However, they can be active all year round during milder weather (above 3.5°C).

