

- Carefully dispose of the tick.

- **Do not** attempt to burn, cut or pull the tick off with your fingers.

- If in doubt, take your pet to the vet.



How to Keep your Pet Flea Free

There are treatments available that effectively deal with ticks and other important parasites. Regular application of these treatments is very important to ensure that your pet is continually protected. The most common reasons for treatment failure are stopping treatment or forgetting to re-administer the product.

Book in for a complimentary parasite consultation where we can discuss your specific parasite needs and provide you with information on the products available.



Consulting Times

Hillock Lane Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7pm

Saturday
8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm

Why not download our new app, PetsApp. Order medication, book an appointment, ask for advice, sends pictures, pay for products and services and much, much more!

Hillock Lane



Blackpool



Parasites - Ticks

Rowan Veterinary Centre

"where pets come first"

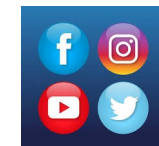
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Tick Fact File

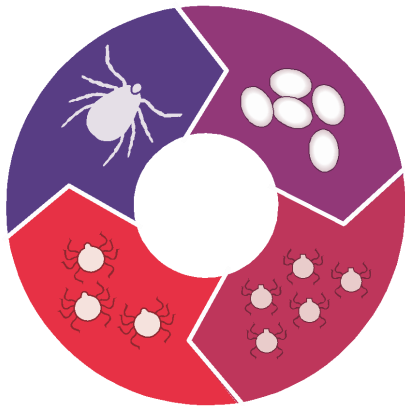
There are around 850 species of ticks worldwide and all are bloodsucking external parasites. Ticks are efficient hunters and are widely distributed in the countryside and parklands. They don't jump like fleas, but reach out for hosts from low vegetation. This is known as "questing".

Ticks detect the vibration, carbon dioxide (CO₂), warmth and humidity of a passing animal, then climb aboard and find a good place to feed on its blood.

The Tick Lifecycle

Adult tick feeds on mammal

Eggs laid in the environment



8 - legged nymphs hatch, attach to and feed on a host, then fall off

6 - legged larvae hatch, attach to and feed on a host, then fall off

#didyounknow

- A single female tick can lay several thousand eggs at a time.
- It can take up to 3 years for the adult tick to develop.
- Tick saliva contains an anaesthetic so your pet will not feel the bite and neither will you!

Ticks and your Pet

Ticks are unpleasant in their own right but they can also be a threat to the health of your dog and you or your family.

Ticks also spread disease and, as an external parasite, are second only to mosquitoes in terms of their public health importance worldwide. Diseases they may transmit in the UK include:

- Lyme disease (borreliosis) - this is a bacterial disease of dogs, people, horses and cats and is a growing problem in the UK. In humans it may cause a rash and flu-like symptoms, but may eventually produce abnormalities in the joints, heart and nervous system.
- Babesiosis - caused by a microscopic protozoal parasite that invades red blood cells. The protozoa have been found to be carried by some ticks in the UK. Symptoms of babesiosis vary greatly but may include a high temperature, an increased respiratory rate, muscle tremors, anaemia, jaundice and weight loss.

How do I check my pet for ticks?

A recent survey of pets in the UK showed that almost half of owners were unaware of infestations so it's really important to know what to look for.



Check you pet's skin on its head first (around the mouth and ears, behind ears and on its neck), then work your way down its forelegs and the rest of its body, searching for any lumps on the skin surface.

If you find a lump:

- Part the hair and look at it more closely. Use a magnifying glass if necessary.
- The place where the tick attaches may or may not be painful and there may be skin swelling. It is distinguished from other skin swellings and growths because close scrutiny can reveal the tick's legs at the level of the skin.

What do I do if I find a tick?

- When attempting to remove a tick avoid handling the parasite directly. Wear gloves and dispose of ticks hygienically so they cannot re-attach themselves or lay eggs.
- The aim is to remove the WHOLE tick including its mouthparts without squeezing the tick's body.
- Use a specially designed hook or scoop with a narrow slot that traps the tick's mouthparts.
- Slide the hook under the tick at skin level so as to grip the head of the tick, ensuring that the hook is not entangled in the fur.
- Scoop out the tick carefully. Following the instructions of the specially designed hook will help dislodge the mouthparts before removal.

