

Tick Prevention



Spring and summer is Tick season. Ticks are found in wooded areas all over British Columbia including the Lower Mainland (this includes **Burns Bog** and the **Watershed!**) and can cause a variety of illnesses in dogs, including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Ask us about which tick prevention product is right for your pet, if they are at risk.

Ticks are parasites that can infect humans and animals during all three stages of their life cycle (larvae, nymph, and adult). Ticks can carry microorganisms that cause serious illnesses in humans and pets. These microorganisms are transmitted to the host when the tick bites.

When a tick bites a dog or person, it securely anchors its mouth to the host. Ticks need to be removed by a technician or veterinarian to ensure the entire tick is taken out! It is possible to remove the body of a tick and not the head, which can be burrowed in the skin resulting in disease and infection. It is through saliva that protozoa and bacteria are transmitted to the host when the tick bites. These microorganisms cause Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and several types of Ehrlichiosis. Ehrlichiosis includes many serious diseases caused by bacteria including canine rickettsiosis, canine hemorrhagic fever, canine typhus, tracker dog disease, and tropical canine pancytopenia. There are also forms of ehrlichiosis that affect humans.

There are four species of ticks in Canada and certain areas have a higher prevalence of disease causing ticks. Ticks primarily infect dogs when they run in tall grass or wooded areas. It is important to be aware of ticks in your area, and how you can protect your dog.



The Four Types of Ticks found in Canada

Rocky Mountain Wood Tick and American Dog Tick – Two very similar species of ticks. The Rocky Mountain Wood Tick is found in wooded areas and meadows in BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The American Dog Tick is found east of Saskatchewan. Among other diseases, these ticks can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever to humans and dogs.



Western Blacklegged Tick and Blacklegged Tick – Two very similar species of ticks. The Western Blacklegged Tick is found in deciduous forests and grassy areas of coastal Southern BC, including areas adjacent to the Fraser River and the Gulf Islands. The Blacklegged Tick is found east of Manitoba. Among other illnesses, the Western Blacklegged Tick can transmit Lyme disease to humans and dogs.



Brown Dog Tick – The Brown Dog Tick is found in pockets all over Canada, but especially in BC along the Pacific coast. This is the only species of tick that can infest homes and kennels and is also found in shaded, sandy areas. Among other illnesses, the Brown Dog Tick can transmit two types of Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis (a blood parasite) to humans and dogs.



Lone Star Tick – The Lone Star Tick is found in wooded and grassy areas near the St. Lawrence River in Quebec. Among other diseases, the Lone Star Tick can transmit two types of Ehrlichiosis and an illness similar to Lyme disease to humans and dogs.

Tick Prevention Products

Preventic – Preventic is a tick collar for dogs that prevents against all four types of ticks found in Canada. The correct amount of the active ingredient spreads over the dog within 24 hours of putting on the collar, and protects against ticks for 3 months. When a tick attaches itself to a dog, Preventic kills it and causes it to detach within 24 hours. This is effective in preventing transmission of tick-borne diseases from ticks to dogs. The Preventic collar is safe for dogs of all sizes over three months of age. **If the dog is only exposed to ticks periodically, the collar can be removed 72 hours after exposure and replaced 24 hours prior to exposure. The collar should be stored in its original foil packaging inside a ziplock bag to keep it effective for future use (up to one tick season)**

K9 Advantix – A topical canine product that kills adult ticks and fleas, and protects against infestation for 4 weeks. K9 Advantix contains permethrin, which acts on the tick's nervous system causing ticks to quickly die. K9 Advantix treats all of the four types of ticks found in Canada. Permethrin also makes the treated dogs skin undesirable for ticks, so ticks are less likely to bite a permethrin-treated dog, tending to jump off to look for a better host instead. If required for active tick infestation, the product can be re-administered weekly. This product is safe for dogs older than 8 weeks and greater than 55lbs (25kg).

Revolution – A topical canine product that kills adult ticks and protects against infestation for 4 weeks. Revolution treats other parasites including intestinal worms, heartworm, fleas, and mites. Revolution only protects against one of the four species of ticks found in Canada. The active ingredient in Revolution is selamectin. Revolution comes in a variety of dose sizes for dogs over 6 weeks of age.

