



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Ticks can be found in the grass, weeds, fields, brush and overgrown areas. They can attach very easily to your body without your knowing it. Pets are prime targets, as well. It's a good practice to check each other when taking a break, going to lunch, or returning to the garage at the end of the work day. And, of course, don't forget to do the same thing at home and check your pets, especially if they have the "run of the back 40." Here's a fact sheet from a very reliable source with information on the type of tick commonly found in Ohio.

Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet
Entomology
1991 Kenny Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1090



American Dog Tick: Female, Male, Female Engorged

Of the 12 species of ticks known to occur in Ohio, the most frequently encountered is the American dog tick. It feeds on a wide variety of medium to large size mammals, such as raccoons, ground hogs, opossum, dogs, and humans. The second most commonly encountered tick in Ohio is the ground hog tick. It be found on a variety of medium to large mammals (ground hogs, raccoons, dogs, cats, mink, fox, and humans).

TICK AVOIDANCE

- Stay out of weedy, tick-infested areas.
- Make frequent personal inspections.
- Examine children at least twice daily. Pay special attention to the head and neck.
- Check clothing for crawling ticks.
- Keep dogs tied or penned in a mowed area as they may bring ticks into the home or yard. Check them daily. If ticks are found, follow tick removal instructions.
- If exposure to a tick-infested area is unavoidable, tuck pant cuffs into socks or boots. Wearing light-colored clothing makes it easier to find crawling ticks.

TICK REMOVAL

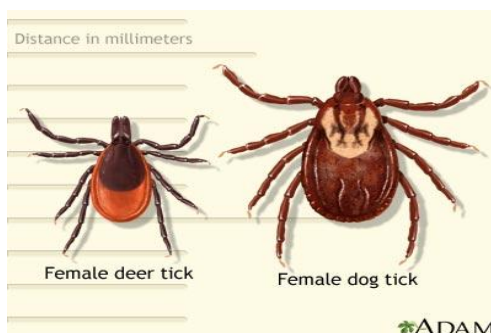
If a tick should become attached to you or your pet, remove it as soon as possible. Prompt removal reduces the chance of infection by Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and Lyme Disease (LD).

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- Shield your fingers with a paper towel, use tweezers or wear rubber gloves. Grasp the tick close to the skin, and with steady pressure, pull straight out.
- Do not twist or jerk the tick, as mouthparts may be left in the skin. Take care not to crush or puncture the tick during removal.
- Use of a hot match or cigarette to remove a tick is NOT recommended as this may cause the tick to burst. Spotted fever may be acquired from infected tick body fluids that come in contact with broken skin, the mouth, or eyes.
- Avoid touching ticks with bare hands. Tick secretions can be infectious. Spotted fever can be acquired through self-inoculation into a small scratch or cut.
- After removing a tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash hands with soap and water.
- Ticks can be tested for RMSF and/or Lyme Disease. Contact the Vector-borne Disease Program of the Ohio Department of Health, Telephone: 614-752-1029, or Fax: 614-752-1391. Place the tick in a small jar or ziplock plastic bag, along with a few blades of green grass (to provide moisture). Store the tick in a cool place until it can be delivered.
- Ticks can be safely disposed of by placing them in a container of oil or alcohol, sticking them to tape, or flushing them in the toilet.

Spotted Fever (or tick typhus, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever) Adult American dog ticks are the primary transmitter of spotted fever in Ohio. Symptoms appear 3 to 12 days after tick contact. There is a sudden onset of symptoms that include fever, headache, and aching muscles. A rash usually develops on the wrists and ankles on the second or third day of fever. The rash then spreads to involve the rest of the body, including the palms and soles. If you experience fever following tick contact, see your physician. It is important to receive the appropriate antibiotics as soon as possible if spotted fever is suspected. Most fatalities can be attributed to a delay in seeking medical attention.

Lyme Disease The most prevalent tick-borne disease of humans in the U.S. is Lyme disease (about 10,000 cases annually), named after Lyme, Connecticut where cases were first reported in 1975. Be alert for a red, ring-like lesion developing at the site of a tick bite within 2 to 32 days. Fever or headache may also be present. Immediate antibiotic therapy reduces the risk of subsequent arthritic, neurologic, or cardiac complications developing days to years later. The good news here is that there is little evidence that Lyme disease is a problem in Ohio.



Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.