

# Tick-borne Diseases

## Which tickborne diseases could I acquire in Oregon?

### **Lyme disease**

(*Borrelia burgdorferi*) transmitted by the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

- **Human granulocytic ehrlichiosis (HGE)** also known as anaplasmosis, transmitted by the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)
- **Babesiosis** (*Babesia microti*, a protozoan) transmitted by the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

## Where can these be acquired?

These diseases can be acquired in areas endemic to ticks. The black-legged tick is found in wooded or brushy areas, on the edge of hiking or animal trails, or the edge of a lawn where it meets a wooded or brushy area.

## What signs and symptoms should prompt someone to see their healthcare provider?

**Lyme disease:** Early onset: bull's-eye rash, fever, malaise, fatigue, headache, muscle ache, and joint aches. Late onset: multiple rash lesions, facial paralysis (Bell's palsy), chronic arthritis, joint swelling, numbness in extremities.

**HGE:** Symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, joint pain, and confusion.

**Babesiosis:** Symptoms may include fever, chills, sweating, muscle aches, and fatigue.

## What are symptoms and treatments in animals?

**Lyme disease:** some dogs have no appetite, lameness, joint swelling, and arthritis, while others show no symptoms of disease. There is a vaccine available. Antibiotics are used to treat infection. Cats usually do not become ill..

**HGE:** Horses and dogs may develop Ehrlichiosis. In the first two to four weeks of acute infection, the animal may develop a fever, lose weight, and be depressed. Antibiotic therapy usually results in rapid improvement.

**Babesiosis:** No babesiosis-infected cats have been reported in the United States. Most dogs do not show symptoms to this disease but they may have a slight fever, be lethargic and anemic.

## What precautions should park visitors take?

Avoid possible tick habitats during the peak time of year, late March – mid-October.

- Wear tick repellent that contains permethrin or DEET.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toed shoes and tuck pant legs into top of socks or boots.
- Wear light-colored clothes to make it easier to spot ticks.
- Check for ticks frequently and remove them promptly.

This fact sheet provides general information. Please contact your physician or veterinarian for specific information related to you or your animals.

For more information visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks>