



Protecting your pet from ticks

Ticks are not just something your teacher gives you when you get an answer right. They are also tiny little bugs that like to live on our pets and can make them very sick.

Because some of our pets have furry coats, are closer to the ground than us and love to explore, they are 50 to 100 times more likely to come in contact with a tick than we are.

Preventing ticks

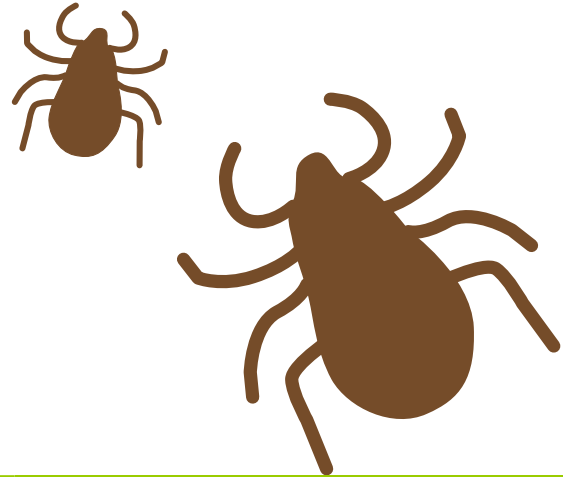
You can help prevent your pet from getting ticks by asking your vet to suggest a tick and flea treatment or collar.

So what should you be looking out for in your pet?

- weakness in the back legs
- appearing 'wobbly' and uncoordinated
- coughing
- change in tone of bark
- difficulty breathing and swallowing
- drooling
- vomiting.

If your pet has one or more of these symptoms you should contact your vet immediately.

Peak tick season (the time when ticks are around the most) is during summer, but they can strike at any time of year so it's important to regularly check your pet for ticks.



How to check for ticks

To check your pet for ticks carefully feel all over, paying attention to the head and neck area, inside the ears, mouth, under the tongue, between the toes, and around the rear.

When removing a tick it's a good idea to wear gloves. Common places you might find a tick on your dog are its ears and the skin around their ears or their lips.

Ticks can live anywhere from 4 and a half months up to 14 months.

How to remove ticks

The best way to remove a tick is with tweezers. Ticks are very small and can be hard to remove, so it's important that you get your Mum or Dad to do the job.

If you do find a tick on your pet it is important that you let your pet rest, keep it cool and relaxed and do not give it food or water. You should then contact your vet immediately for advice.