

TICKS

General Information

Ticks are blood sucking parasites that infest most animals and sometimes people. Their life cycle is complex and involves one or more species of animals as hosts. Female ticks deposit their eggs in the environment, rather than on the animal. Ticks attach to the skin and feed on the animal's blood. Tick bites may become infected and some ticks produce a toxin that can cause paralysis and even death. Ticks also spread several serious diseases, such as Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. A blood test to check for these diseases is recommended 6 months following the discovery of ticks on your pet.

Life Cycle

Depending on the tick and environmental conditions, the life cycle of a tick can range from a few months to two years. Each developmental stage of a tick's life requires a blood meal in order to reach the next stage. Ticks are notoriously long-lived, and can live as long as 3-5 months in each stage without feeding.

EGG STAGE

Female ticks lay eggs in secluded areas. Cracks and crevices in houses and where vegetation is dense and several inches high is ideal. Adult females of some tick species lay about 100 eggs at a time; others lay 3,000 to 6,000 eggs per batch. Regardless of species, tick eggs hatch in about two weeks.

LARVAL STAGE

After hatching, the larvae move into elevated areas such as grass or shrubs in search of their first blood meal. If you or your pet passes by, they attach themselves and crawl upward in pursuit of an area of the skin that they can feed from. They then drop off the host, back into the environment.

NYMPHAL STAGE

After finding their first blood meal, the larvae molt into their nymph stage and begin searching for another host. Nymphs are the size of a freckle and often go undetected, increasing the chance for disease transmission.

ADULT STAGE

Once the nymph has had its blood meal, it matures into adulthood. Adult female ticks feed on a host for 8 to 12 days. In some cases, they will increase to 100 times their original weight while feeding. While still on the host, the female will mate, fall off and lay her eggs in a secluded place--beginning the life cycle again.

Tick Control and Prevention

Controlling ticks can be a challenge, eliminating ticks from your pet is not enough. Having your home and yard treated regularly is an effective way to prevent an infestation. Please contact the Jaffe Animal Clinic for the latest in tick prevention. (561) 395-4030

TICK PREVENTION

REVOLUTION (Salamectin)

Once applied, Revolution enters the bloodstream through the skin. Concentrations of Revolution in the blood and intestinal tract prevent heartworm disease and treat gastrointestinal parasites, respectively. Revolution selectively redistributes from blood to sebaceous glands, which are found below the skin's surface. Revolution's presence in the sebaceous glands and in the skin is the reservoir of drug that provides protection against fleas, flea eggs, ticks and mites.

Effectiveness:

- Revolution is active in pets system with in 24-48 hours. Initial dose will take up to 2 weeks to become fully active.
- Revolution effects the central nervous system of the tick. Owners will still see ticks attached and engorged.
- The tick must bite pet
- Revolution can take up to 3-5 days to kill ticks.
- Revolution may be applied every 2-4 weeks for tick prevention.
- Pets can be bathed regularly

FRONTLINE SPRAY (Fipronil)

Once applied, Frontline is absorbed in the skin and distributed through the sebaceous glands. Frontline's presence in the sebaceous gland and in the skin is the reservoir of the drug that provides protection. Frontline is not absorbed into the bloodstream.

- Frontline is active in pets system within 6-8 hours
- Fronline effects the central nervous system of the tick. Owners will still see ticks attached and engorged
- Ticks do not have to bite
- Frontline can take up to 24-48 hours to kill ticks
- Frontline can be applied every 4 week for tick prevention, but can be effective up to 3 months before reapplication.
- Pets can be bathed regularly

PREVENTIC COLLARS (Amitraz)

Preventic works as a time-controlled slow-release system. Place collar snugly on dog's neck. Amitraz is absorbed into the skin and distributed through the sebaceous glands. Amitraz is not absorbed into bloodstream.

- Preventic is active in dogs system in 8 hours. Totally protected in 24 hours
- Preventic paralyzes the mouth parts of the tick. Owners will see ticks walking around on their dog
- Preventic detaches ticks already on the dog and keeps new ticks from attaching
- Preventic collar needs to be replaced every 3 months
- After bathing pet must be completely dry before placing collar. It will take up to 24 hours before dog is fully protected again.
- DO NOT USE ON CATS

For Tick infestations it is recommended to use Frontline Spray and Preventic Collar together.

K9 ADVANTIX (Imidacloprid/Permethrin)

Once applied, K9 Advantix is absorbed in the skin and distributed through the sebaceous glands. K9 Advantix presence in the sebaceous gland and in the skin is the reservoir of the drug that provides protection. Advantix is not absorbed into the bloodstream.

- K9 Advantix is active in pets system within 6-8 hours
- K9 Advantix effects the central nervous system of the tick. Owners will still see ticks attached and engorged
- Ticks do not have to bite
- K9 Advantix can take up to 24-48 hours to kill ticks
- Advantix can be applied every 4 weeks for tick prevention
- Pets can be bathed regularly
- DO NOT USE ON CATS

TICKS CAN LIVE IN THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT A HOST FOR UP TO 18-24 MONTHS. FOR PROPER TICK CONTROL, TREAT THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG WITH THE PET.

PROMERIS (Metaflumizone/Amitraz)

Due to reported side effects to both the dog and people exposed to the odor of the product, our clinic does not recommend using this product.