

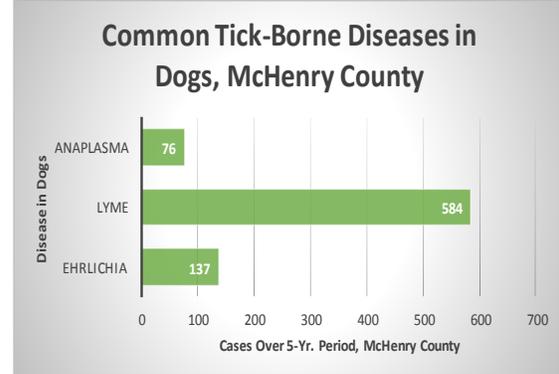
Protect You & Your Pets from Ticks!

What are ticks?

“Tick” is a general term used to describe a class of parasites that feed on blood to live. Ticks are ectoparasites, meaning they live outside the host they depend on. Ticks are a vector, or carrier, of many diseases that are harmful to humans, dogs, and cats alike. In Illinois, and specifically McHenry County, American Dog Ticks, Black Legged Ticks, Brown Dog Ticks, and Lone Star Ticks all live and can transmit diseases to us and our pets. Below are the four ticks to watch out for, in addition to details of the diseases they transmit.



From Top Left (rotate clockwise): American Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick, Brown Dog Tick, and Black Legged Tick



Compared to national rates, McHenry County has a higher prevalence of both Lyme’s disease and ehrlichia in the dog population, thus why the prevention and awareness of tick-borne diseases is so important

Actual size of a tick



The four ticks above can transmit a variety of diseases to pets and humans, including:

- Tularemia (Affects: Pets & Humans; Symptoms: High fever, skin ulcers)
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (Affects: Pets & Humans; Symptoms: Fever, spotted rash, headache)
- Anaplasmosis (Affects: Pets & Humans; Symptoms: Fever, visual discomfort, muscle pain)
- Babesiosis (Affects: Pets & Humans; Symptoms: fever, chills, jaundice in humans, pale gums in pets)
- Powassan Disease (Affects: Humans; Symptoms: fever, vomiting, confusion, seizures (rare))
- Ehrlichiosis (Affects: Pets & Humans; Symptoms: chills, rash, fever, eye inflammation (pets))
- Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness: (Affects: Humans & Pets; “bullseye” rash (humans), fatigue, fever)

There are many prevention strategies to prevent tick-borne illnesses for both you and your pet:

Prevention is cyclic; efforts to protect yourself from tick exposure will help protect your pet from tick exposure and vice-versa



Information Taken From:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

IDEXX Laboratories