

AMERICAN DOG TICK

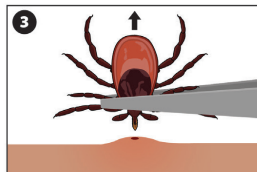
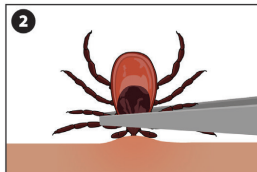
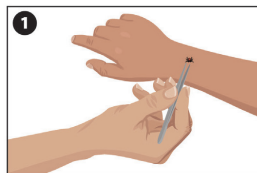
(Dermacentor variabilis)

Adult American dog ticks are reddish-brown in color and have distinctive white or cream-colored markings on their backs. These ticks can carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Tularemia. They are commonly found in wooded areas and can attach to both humans and animals.



Tick Removal Steps

- Remove the tick as soon as possible to reduce your chance of getting an infection from the tick bite.
- Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick's head as close to the skin as possible.
- Gently pull the tick upward with slow, steady pressure.
- Disinfect the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.



Prevent Tick Bites

- Use insect repellent
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Avoid wooded and brushy areas
- Check for ticks after being outdoors

Symptoms

- The signs and symptoms of tularemia vary depending on the route of infection, and all types are associated with fever, ranging from mild to severe.
- The majority of individuals who get sick with Rocky Mountain spotted fever will experience symptoms such as fever, headache, and rash.



Tick Life Cycle

- The lifecycle of American dog ticks generally lasts two years.
- During this time, they go through four life stages: egg, six-legged larva, eight-legged nymph, and adult.
- After hatching, ticks require a blood meal at every stage to survive.
- The tick needs a new host for each stage of its life. Although it is commonly found in dogs, it can also attach to larger animals such as cattle, horses, and even humans.

