

Tick-borne diseases

Ticks, which feed on blood, often transmit bacteria or parasites into the bloodstream.

Ticks are found in most parts of the world. They can cause Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and less well-known diseases like babesiosis and ehrlichiosis. All of these ailments can potentially cause serious and life-threatening illness.

- ▶ Preventing tick exposure is the single most effective way to prevent tick-borne disease.

What does it look like?

Clinical signs vary widely by disease, but often include these common signs:

- Lethargy
- Decreased appetite
- Fever
- Rashes



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs, like fever and rashes
 - Physical exam results
 - Your pet's history of tick exposure
 - Laboratory tests
- ▶ Blood tests often help to identify the organism transmitted from the tick to your pet.

How is it treated?

Treatment varies widely based on the type and severity of the disease, but often includes antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and hospitalization with fluid therapy. Blood transfusions may be necessary in serious cases.



- ▶ Protect your dog against Lyme disease with a yearly vaccine.



How to help your pet

- Use effective year-round tick prevention products, following all label instructions
- Use additional topical tick preventives, and check your pet's body, ears, head, armpits, and groin after walking or hiking
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

