

Don't get  
tricked by...



# TICKS

**Small spider-like parasites that suck blood from their host, common ticks are capable of causing irritation and disease, with potentially serious consequences.**

Ticks need not be problematic if precautions are taken and addressed quickly.



## What are ticks?

Found in dense, moist vegetation, they will crawl into a dog's fur as they brush past and owners should check their pet and themselves for their presence after every countryside walk.

Ticks have eight legs and an egg-shaped body, which expands in size and deepens in colour as it fills with blood. Once the tick has eaten enough, it will detach itself and simply drop off.

There are approximately 20 species of tick present in the UK and some can carry harmful bacteria that develops as Lyme Disease in humans. Flu-like symptoms, such as a fever, headache, tiredness and general aches and pains, with a red rash around the bite, might indicate an infection.

When examining their dogs, some owners mistake ticks for skin tags or lumps. If a tick is found, it should be carefully removed, without squeezing the insect. Using a tick tool designed for the purpose, the trick is to lift the hook slightly and gently twist before pulling it away. The bite area should then be disinfected and hands should be washed.

## Tick prevention

- Recommend a Flea and Tick Collar, which will deter ticks.
- Expand your range of treatments, such as spot-on treatments and tablets.
- Suggest walkers do not leave skin uncovered when walking in vegetation.
- Suggest walkers check their dog's fur and their own skin carefully upon return.
- Remove ticks carefully with the appropriate tool.
- Disinfect around any bite areas after removal.

## Precautions are sensible

Ticks are to be expected as a pet owner, but they need not be problematic if precautions are taken and responded to quickly.