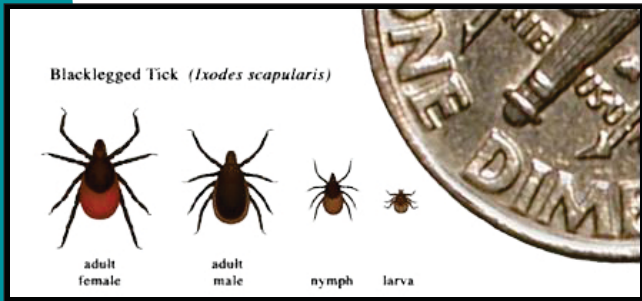


Ticks

Blacklegged Ticks also known as “Deer Ticks” can transmit diseases including Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Lyme Disease. Pictured below from left to right are Blacklegged Ticks at various stages of their life cycle. An adult female tick is pictured at far left below, followed by a male adult, nymph and larvae.



To protect you from tick bites avoid areas with a lot of ticks. Ticks are found in wooded, bushy areas, in high grass and in a lot of leaf litter. Ticks are active at temperatures as low as 40 degrees. Ticks thrive in humid areas. They die rapidly in dry environments. Ticks will not drop out of trees. You have to have contact with them for the ticks to get on you. The tick transmits the bacteria that cause Lyme disease when it bites and gets a blood meal. Ticks can also carry many other dangerous infectious diseases and viruses.



Close-up picture of a female Blacklegged Tick on a blade of grass.

What can you do?

Call **978-772-4890** NOW to set up a Tick Control program.

Remove leaf litter, clear brush and tall grass around the home and wood edge. Place wood-chips or gravel between wood edge and lawn, this will help lower tick migration. Mow often and remove downed trees from your property. Bird feeders attract squirrels, rodents, chipmunks and birds that will carry ticks into your property. Use extra precaution in May, June and July, as this is when ticks are most active. Keep play areas away from yard edges and trees. Use deer barriers and repellants. Install plants that deer prefer not to eat. Consider a multifaceted treatment plan by a licensed pesticide applicator such as JBTurf. We have the expertise using integrated pest management techniques to effectively control tick populations. We always use safe application techniques and use products specifically approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Do not feed the deer. Do not provide food or salt licks for deer. When you attract deer, you will have an increase in the ticks that transmit Lyme disease. Deer do not get infected with the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. However, deer provide blood meals for ticks to complete their life cycle. Deer also provide transportation for ticks. Female ticks will drop off of a deer and lay her eggs in the spring.

When outdoors perform frequent tick checks over the entire body. Ticks are easily picked up, you don't have to be in the yard long to get one. Wear light colored clothes, tuck pant legs into socks, wear long sleeved shirts and apply repellants labeled for ticks. If a tick bites you, please contact your physician immediately. Ask your veterinarian for products to protect your animals.

Female Ticks can lay up to 3,000 eggs!

Erythema Migrans Lesions of Lyme Disease

When diagnosing Lyme disease, health care providers may consider other diseases that may cause similar symptoms. Most people do not recall being bitten by a tick so a key component of early diagnosis is recognition of the characteristic Lyme disease rash Erythema Migrans. Not all patients will develop the bull's-eye rash associated with Lyme disease infection. Your physician may require a blood test.



Target Lesion



Solid Lesion



Multiple Lesions

Patients who are diagnosed early and receive treatment usually recover. The rash often takes a bull's-eye appearance and is observed in about 80% of Lyme disease patients. Other symptoms include fatigue, headache, fever, chills, muscle and joint pain, and swollen lymph nodes. These may be the only symptoms of infection. Untreated, infection can spread to the other parts of the body within days or weeks. Other symptoms may be loss of muscle tone on one or both sides of the face (“Bell’s Palsy”), severe headaches and neck stiffness due to meningitis, heart palpitations and dizziness due to changes in heartbeat, moving joint pain and sleep changes. After several months, some patients with untreated infection can have bouts of arthritis with joint pain and swelling. Neurological problems can develop months to years after infection including numbness or tingling in hands or feet. Memory and concentration can also be affected.

