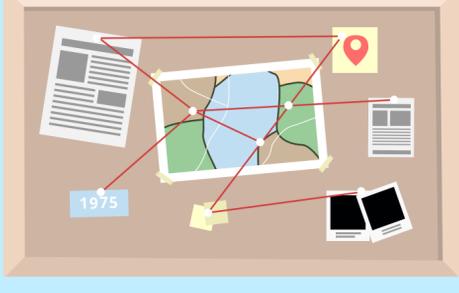


The Case of the Spreading Lyme Disease

Pet Shed Says NO To Lyme Disease



About the Disease

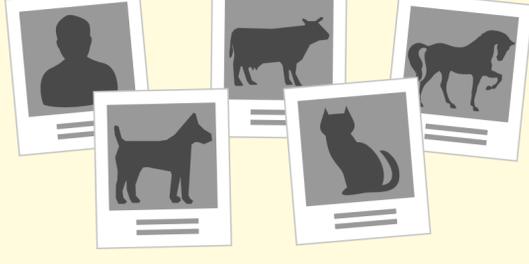
Lyme disease is a disease transmitted by ticks (deer ticks) which causes recurring lameness, uneasiness, and even kidney problems. Lyme disease can be difficult to detect and it usually takes 2-4 months before symptoms occur.



• Lyme Bacteria aka the Spirochete

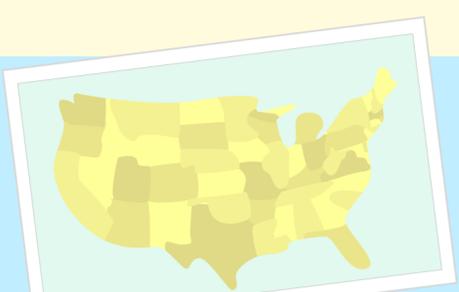
Signs of disease

- ! Stiff walk with an arched back
- ! Sensitivity to touch
- ! Difficulty breathing
- ! Fever, lack of appetite, and depression
- ! Superficial lymph nodes close to the site of the infecting tick bite may be swollen



Who are its victims?

- Dogs are frequent victims but cats, cows, and horses can also be affected.
- First identified in 1975 when a rare case of Rheumatic Arthritis in children was reported in Lyme, Connecticut, hence, its name.
- By 1982, it was discovered that this disease was caused by a bacterium called Borrelia Burgdorferi. Since then, the disease has been reported in humans and animals all over the US and other parts of the world.



Sightings of the disease

Most of the cases before have been reported in areas of the Pacific coast and in the Midwest and Atlantic coast states. But now, it's all over the country. This is because of the increase of mice and deer that transmit ticks from place to place where mice are the main source of Lyme.

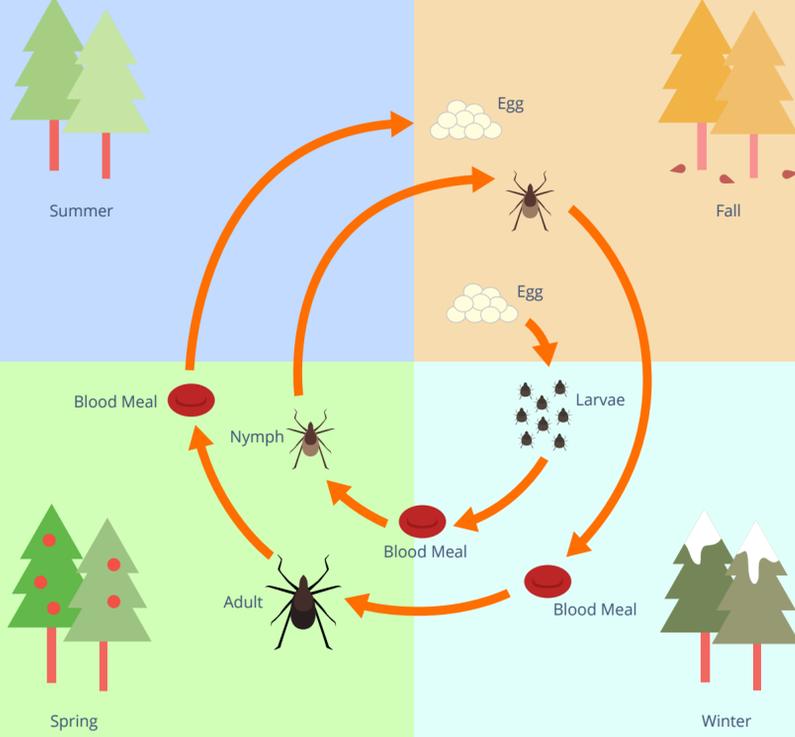


Its Hideout

- Most ticks are often found in the woods but can also be found in the city.
- Ticks are very sensitive to dehydration. This means they often hide in shady areas.
- Adult ticks are mostly found on the tips of knee-high branches or shrubs questing for larger hosts.
- Nymphs are usually found in moist leaf litter in wooded areas looking for smaller mammals like mice but may prey on cats, dogs, and humans.
- Maintaining a well-cut lawn can lessen the chance of housing ticks in your home.
- In dogs, they are often found hiding on their necks, ears, and other places where they're harder to spot.

When it strikes

Ticks are active anytime the temperature is higher than 45 °F. High risk of infection is around late spring and summer. The disease is mostly spread by nymphs and adult ticks whenever they feed on its host.



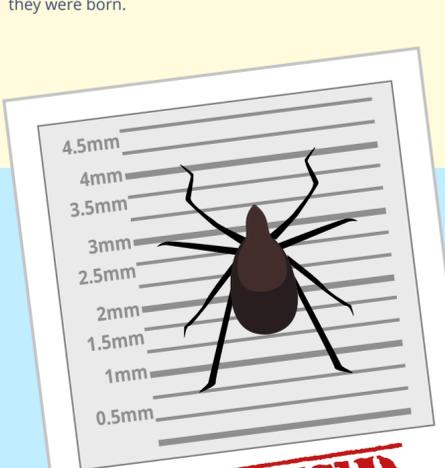
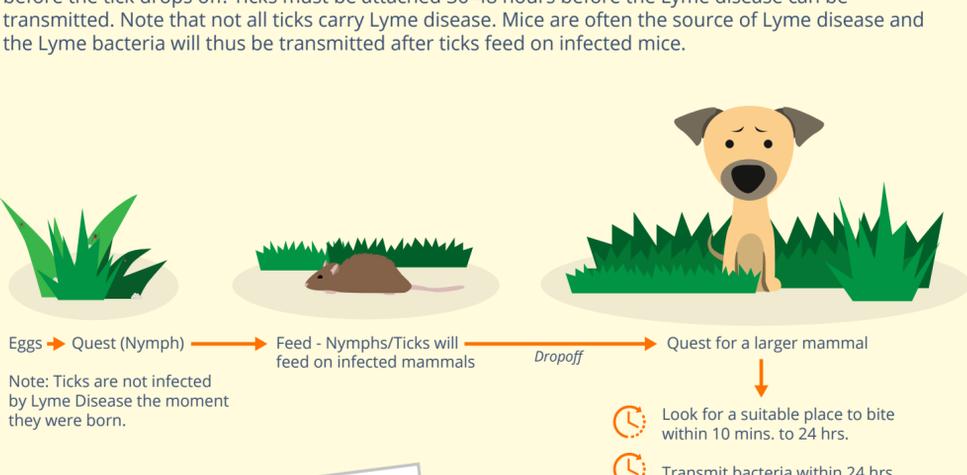
Adult ticks are active on the months of October until May as long as the temperature is above the freezing temperature. They would feed on humans and pets until full and will drop off to a leaf litter.



Nymphs are active during the months of May until August. These tiny nymphs are often the cause of Lyme disease transmission as they are difficult to see and hard to remove.

Tracing the source

Ticks can't jump and must wait for their host to pass by before climbing on. It will then take them 10 minutes to 2 hours looking for a place to bite before feeding on its host. It will stay for several day before the tick drops off. Ticks must be attached 36-48 hours before the Lyme disease can be transmitted. Note that not all ticks carry Lyme disease. Mice are often the source of Lyme disease and the Lyme bacteria will thus be transmitted after feeding on infected mice.



Its Sneaky Tricks

Ticks are a very smart insect. They would secrete a small amount of saliva with anesthetics so it's difficult to sense when they attach themselves to their hosts.

Take Caution

- Avoid tick-infested areas especially in spring.
- Check for ticks regularly and remove by hand using tweezers or use tools like a tick twister to completely remove ticks from pets without leaving tick mouthparts.
- Check pets before they enter your home.
- For extra protection, bathe with flea and tick shampoo and let them wear a flea and tick collar.
- Create a barrier of wood chips or pebbles in your yard (if living in a wooded area).
- Consult a vet for Lyme vaccination (for endemic areas only).

Outdoors

- Wear light clothing and tuck pants in socks.
- Brush off any ticks on clothing or skin before skin attachment occurs.
- Check clothes or skin every 2-3 hours for ticks.
- Keep pets in a year-round flea and tick prevention.

