

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Protection from Tick Bites



Tick bites are annoying, but can be painful and dangerous. Knowing some of the facts about ticks can help us avoid some of the problems.

WHAT ARE TICKS?

- Most ticks are parasites of warm-blooded animals.
- They are not insects, but are closely related to mites, spiders and scorpions.
- They can cause skin redness and swelling.
- Minor infections may let disease-causing germs enter the body.
- Ticks are very small ranging in size from 1/8 in. to 1/2 in.
- Usually are brown in color, live in coastal, or humid places and in woody or brushy areas.
- They are out all year, but more so in the spring.

WHAT PROBLEMS DO TICKS CAUSE?

- Inflammation of the skin (redness)
- Itching
- Swelling around the bite

They can also transmit diseases by infecting victims with bacteria carried on the mouthparts or in their saliva. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and tularemia (rabbit fever) are two diseases that are spread by ticks. They can be cured if diagnosed promptly. If you have an unexplained fever or remember a tick bite 10 to 14 days earlier, mention this to your doctor.

Ticks can cause anemia in humans and pets.

HOW DO YOU REMOVE TICKS?

- You usually don't feel tick movements and bites when they occur.
- If you have been in areas known to have had ticks, check yourself carefully and often.
- Always remove the whole tick, making sure you do not leave its mouth parts.
- Relax the ticks' mouthparts for easy removal by touching the tick's body (may be swollen) with a hot needle.
- A few drops of camphor, alcohol, turpentine, or kerosene or chloroform can help with the tick's mouthparts as well.
- After one of the methods above either the hot needle or chemicals are used, take tweezers and grasp them tightly and remove it with a slow deliberate pull. Do not touch with your bare hands.

PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Keep clothing buttoned with shirttails inside your pants and pants inside of tops of your socks.
- Duct tape can be used with the sticky side out and around the boot top for a tick trap.
- Do not sit on the ground in areas that could have ticks. Check your clothing and hair twice a day.

HOW TO CONTROL TICKS:

- Keep lawns cut.
- Control light infestations in buildings with household insecticide. Spray around baseboards, cracks, door casings and where your pets sleep. Do not spray your pets with the insecticide.

**GET THE SAFETY ITCH!
BE ALERT-ACCIDENTS HURT!!**

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