

## Ticks

Ticks are parasites related to mites and spiders. They're active all year round, but tick activity peaks during the summer months. Their appearance can change depending on which life stage they're at, and how full of blood they are. Pets are most likely to be exposed in areas of heathland,



moorland or woodland, but can just as easily pick them up in gardens.

As ticks feed, they can transmit serious diseases, such as Lyme disease which is also a risk to human health; more often though they cause irritation and infection at the bite site.

You should inspect your pet regularly for ticks, and combing dogs and cats thoroughly after walks can help remove any ticks that have attached to your pet's coat, but not bitten yet. Do not try to remove ticks using alcohol or tweezers – this usually results in mouth parts of the tick remaining in the animal's skin and causing infection. The best way to remove ticks is using a hook, pictured here; we can show you how to use these correctly, and safely, minimising any infection risk.

Tick treatments are available from us, which will kill ticks within 48 hours of attachment, minimising the risk of disease transmission and infection. Frontline spray or spot on is available for tick treatment in cats. Seresto collars and Advantix is the treatment for dogs seresto collars are now available in the practice and are highly recommended which kills and repels ticks and kills fleas for up to 8 months, so no more wondering when you last applied a spot on, risking the protection of your pet.



Please contact us if you have any questions regarding ticks or the health treatment of your pet.