

# Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*.



Symptoms include fever, headaches, myalgia; characteristic spotted rash\* begins on wrists, ankles, palms, and soles, and may be absent early in the disease. Treatment is usually doxycycline. \*RMSF rash photo courtesy of Ed Masters, MD.

Humans and pets may contract RMSF. RMSF maybe life threatening. Need to get early appropriate treatment.

Ticks that transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever include *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog), *Dermacentor andersoni* (wood tick), *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (brown dog), and possibly *Amblyomma americanum* (lone star).

Also see [American Dog Ticks, Bears, & RMSF /index.php/lda-news-a-updates/1450-america-dog-ticks-bears-a-rmsf](#)

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