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).

See: *A 5-Year-Old Gone Too Soon from Untreated Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever* (from Department of Defense – CDMRP)

Also see: *American Dog Ticks, Bears, & RMSF*

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